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Aruba TODAY

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Obama Meets with Saudi King; Reassures Bond

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, escort President Barack Obama to his meeting with Saudi King Abdullah at Rawdat Khuraim, Saudi Arabia, Friday, March 28, 2014. Rawdat Khuraim is a green oasis located 62 miles northwest of the capital city of Riyadh and King Abdullah's private desert encampment is located within Rawdat Khuraim.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)
— The United States is considering allowing shipments

of portable air defense systems to Syrian rebels, a U.S. official said Friday, as President Barack Obama sought to reassure Saudi Arabia's king that the U.S. is

not taking too soft a stance in Syria and other Mideast conflicts. The president and King Abdullah met for more than two hours at the ag-

ing monarch's desert oasis outside the capital city of Riyadh. Obama advisers said the two leaders spoke frankly about their differences on key issues, with

the president assuring the king that he remains committed to the Gulf region's security.

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Officials: Putin calls Obama to discuss Ukraine

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2014 New York Times

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia —

President Vladimir Putin of Russia called President Barack Obama on Friday to discuss a proposal by Obama for a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine, and the two leaders agreed that diplomats for both countries should meet soon to discuss it, the White House said.

In a statement from the

White House, officials said the telephone call from the Russian president had followed a proposal presented by Secretary of State John Kerry to Sergei V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, during talks at the Hague this week. Officials did not describe details about the proposal but said that Obama had told Putin during the call that the United States would like to see a dip-

lomatic solution that involves Russia pulling back its troops from the Crimean Peninsula and not making any further steps to invade other parts of Ukraine.

The statement said that Obama, who was visiting Saudi Arabia on Friday, had "urged Russia to support this process and avoid further provocations, including the buildup of forces on its border with Ukraine." □

White House officials said Obama and Putin had agreed during the call that Kerry and Lavrov would meet soon "to discuss next steps."

Officials did not say when that meeting might happen. Kerry has been in Europe with Obama during the past week and was in Riyadh on Friday with the president for a meeting with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. □

Vatican says it's willing, wants to help Venezuela

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican said Friday it was "willing and desirous" to intervene diplomatically in Venezuela's crisis after weeks of deadly unrest but says it must study expectations and options about what role it could play. On Thursday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro accepted the idea of a good-faith facilitator after coming under mounting pressure to reconcile with opponents who have been protesting for nearly three months. He mentioned Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, until last year the Vatican's ambassador to Caracas. Critics of Maduro's socialist administration have pressed for Vatican involvement: Shortly before he was arrested, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez wrote an open letter to Pope Francis, the first Latin American pope, asking him to guide the country.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Friday the Holy See and Parolin were "certainly willing and desirous to do whatever is possible for the good and serenity of the country." He said Parolin, in particular, "knows and loves" Venezuela. But he said the Vatican needed to have more information to understand "the expectations and the premise for undertaking a useful role that could achieve the desired outcome." Such a study, he said, was underway. The oil-rich nation has been widely criticized for its harsh crackdown on opponents protesting inflation, crime and shortages. Clashes between protesters and loyalists have left more than 30 people dead.

While direct Vatican mediation in conflicts is rare, the Holy See's diplomats often work behind the scenes and have helped resolve conflicts in Latin America before.

In 1978, Pope John Paul II sent an envoy to help Francis' native Argentina and Chile reach a compromise on a territorial dispute. The two countries had been on the brink of war over the Beagle Channel and its islands. □

Flight 370 search shifts after new look at data

GILLIAN WONG

ROB GRIFFITH

Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) —

Three weeks into the mystery of Flight 370, investigators relying on newly analyzed satellite data shifted the search zone yet again, focusing on a swath of Indian Ocean where better conditions could help speed a hunt that is now concentrated thousands of miles from where it began. Planes combed the newly targeted area off the west coast of Australia spotted several objects Friday, including two rectangular items that were blue and gray, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said. Although those are part of the colors of the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, it was not clear if they were from the plane.

The newly targeted zone is nearly 700 miles northeast of sites the searchers have crisscrossed for the past week. The redeployment came after analysts determined that the jet may have been traveling faster than earlier estimates and would therefore have run out of fuel sooner, officials said.

"This is a credible new lead and will be thoroughly investigated," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said. The Australian maritime agency will analyze

photos of the objects seen in the area, and a Chinese patrol ship will try to locate them Saturday, officials said.

During the search, hundreds of objects have been seen in the water by satellites, but so far not a single one has been confirmed as being from missing Boeing 777.



Malaysia's acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein, right, answers a reporter's question as Malaysia Airlines Group Chief Executive Ahmad Jauhari Yahya, left, listens during a press conference for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, at Putra World Trade Center (PWTC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Friday March 28, 2014. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

New Zealand Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short said a search plane had spotted 11 objects Friday clustered in a small area about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) west of Perth.

One appeared to be a fishing buoy but the others were white, rectangular

in shape and floating just below the surface, he said Saturday. Each was no larger than a meter (3 feet) in length.

"Our crew couldn't identify anything that would say it was definitely from the Malaysian aircraft," Short said. "I think the main issue is that those objects will have to be picked up by a ship

said Erik van Sebille, an oceanographer at New South Wales University. "Where they are searching now is more like a subtropical ocean. It is not nearly as bad as the southern Indian Ocean, which should make the search easier." But in Malaysia, Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein cautioned that while the conditions had improved, they remained challenging and the area "although more focused than before, remains considerable."

The new search area is about 80 percent smaller than the old one, but still spans about 123,000 square miles, (319,000 square kilometers), roughly the size of New Mexico (Poland). In most places, depths range from about 6,560 feet (2,000 meters) to 13,120 feet (4,000 meters), although the much deeper Diamantina trench edges the search area.

Flight 370 disappeared March 8 while bound from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The hunt focused first on the Gulf of Thailand, along the plane's planned path. But when radar data showed it had veered sharply west, the search moved to the Andaman Sea, off the western coast of Malaysia, before pivoting to the southern Indian Ocean, southwest of Australia. □

so they can physically examine them."

The shift to the new zone could be a break for searchers because it is a shorter flight from land and has much calmer weather than the remote stretch previously targeted.

"It is a different ballpark,"

8 cases of Ebola turn up in Guinea's capital

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) —

Health officials in the West African nation of Guinea say they're now treating eight cases of Ebola in the capital.

Dr. Sakoba Keita, a spokesman for the health ministry,

announced on national television the virus had reached the city of 3 million. Keita said Friday at least 70 people have died in the country's south since the Ebola outbreak began last week. The highly infec-

tious virus causes hemorrhagic fever in its victims, with a fatality rate of up to 90 percent. Keita said the new cases involved patients who had been in contact with the body of one of the earlier victims.

He said health officials were seeking to quarantine anyone who took part in the burials.

Authorities in neighboring Liberia are also investigating several suspected cases. □

Obama Meets with Saudi King; Reassures Bond

Continued from front

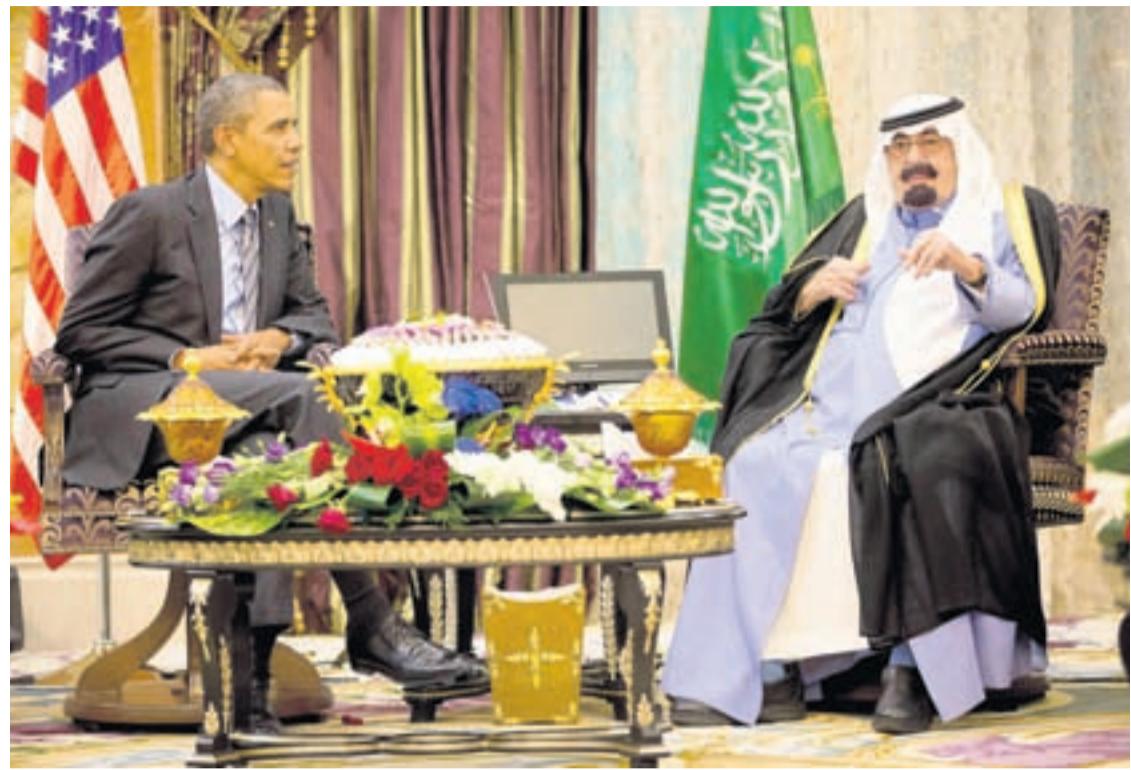
Saudi officials have grown particularly concerned about what they see as Obama's tepid response to the Syrian civil war and have pressed the U.S. to allow them to play a direct role in sending the rebels the air defense systems commonly known as manpads. While administration officials have previously ruled out that option, a senior official said it was being considered, in part because the U.S. has been able to develop deeper relationships with the Syrian opposition over the past year. The official said no final decision had been made and the president might ultimately decide against the proposal. One of Obama's top concerns continues to be whether the weaponry would fall into the wrong hands, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss internal deliberations by name and commented only on condition of anonymity. The official cast the approach as less of a sudden change in position and more an indication of how the U.S. has viewed the issue for some time. A second senior official said there had been no change in the U.S. position on manpads, but did not specifically rule out the notion that the option was under consideration.

Manpads are compact missile launchers with the range and explosive power to attack low-flying planes and helicopters. U.S. officials have estimated the Syrian government has thousands. The decades-long alliance between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia has been a pillar of security arrangements in the Middle East. But as U.S. troops have pulled out of Iraq and Afghanistan, the kingdom's royal family has become increasingly anxious about Obama's positioning in the region.

Tensions reached a high point last fall after Obama decided against launching a military strike on Syria, choosing instead to back

a plan to strip Syrian President Bashar Assad of his chemical weapon stockpiles. U.S. officials say the relationship has improved since then, with both sides making an effort to more closely coordinate their efforts to halt the Syrian conflict. "We are in a better place today than we were seven months ago," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser. Beyond Syria, one of the king's biggest concerns has been the U.S.-led nuclear negotiations with Iran. The Saudis fear Iran's nuclear program, object to Iran's backing of the Assad government and see Tehran as having designs on oil fields in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Officials said the nuclear negotiations were a primary topic of Friday's meeting, with Obama assuring the king that the U.S. was not glossing over Tehran's other provocations in order to get a final deal.

The president arrived in Riyadh Friday evening, then quickly boarded the presidential helicopter for a 30-minute flight to the king's desert camp. Obama walked through a row of military guards to an ornate room featuring a massive crystal chandelier and took a seat next to the king, who appeared to be breathing with the assistance of an oxygen tank. Secretary of State John Kerry and National Security Adviser Susan Rice joined Obama in the meeting, his third official visit with the king in six years. While Obama and the king were originally expected to hold a dinner following their meeting, officials said those plans had changed. The Obama administration's openness to considering supplying manpads to the Syrian rebels did not appear to be directly connected to Friday's meetings. Officials said specific types of assistance were not discussed with the king. However, the possibility of supplying manpads has been discussed in previous meetings between U.S. and Saudi officials, including talks in Washington earlier this year. □



President Barack Obama meets with Saudi King Abdullah at Rawdat Khuraim, Saudi Arabia, Friday, March 28, 2014.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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Port Authority Chairman resigns, Christie announces

MARC SANTORA

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Seeking to move past a scandal that has embroiled his administration and threatened his political future, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey announced on Friday the resignation of the chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, David Samson.

Christie, in his first news conference in nearly three months, said he had discussed the matter with Samson and they agreed that new leadership was an essential part of reforming the multibillion dollar agency, which is at the center of the controversy involving the closing of

several traffic lanes at the George Washington Bridge in September.

Samson's resignation is effective immediately.

The authority, which operates the bridge and other vital transportation hubs in the region, is overseen jointly by Christie and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York. It has an annual budget of \$8.2 billion, and there are plans to spend a further \$27.6 billion in capital improvements over the next decade, larger than many state budgets.

The scandal has cast a harsh light on the agency, and Christie said at the news conference that he was open to the idea of separating the agency's



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie speaks during a news conference at the State Capitol in Trenton, N.J., March 28, 2014. Christie announced on Friday that the chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, David Samson, has resigned, the latest fallout from the scandal surrounding the closure of several traffic lanes at the George Washington Bridge.

(Josh Haner/The New York Times)

oversight between the states. Christie's news conference came a day after a law firm hired by his administration released an internal report that stated that Christie was not involved in the decision to close the traffic lanes, which led to four days of gridlock in Fort Lee, N.J., in September. The report placed blame squarely on Bridget Anne Kelly, then one of his top aides, and on David Wildstein, a long-time political operative and the No. 2 New Jersey official at the Port Authority. The governor fired Kelly, and Wildstein resigned.

Samson, a prominent lawyer and close Christie ally, declined to be interviewed by the lawyers who were commissioned by the governor. The report has been criticized by Democrats as not being thorough and designed solely to exonerate Christie.

Samson, who was appointed by Christie to the authority's board in 2011, issued a statement shortly after Christie made the announcement.

"Over the past months, I have shared with the Governor my desire to conclude my service to the PANYNJ," Samson said in the statement. "The timing is now right, and I am confident that the Governor will put new leadership in place to address the many challenges ahead." □

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Nuclear test cheating linked to flawed leadership



Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, accompanied by Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, take questions during a news conference at the Pentagon. The Air Force is firing nine mid-level commanders and disciplining dozens of junior officers at a nuclear missile base in response to an exam-cheating scandal that spanned a far longer period than originally reported.

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

A basic contradiction lies at the root of an exam-cheating scandal that decimated the ranks of an Air Force nuclear missile group, investigators say: Commanders were demanding perfection in testing and ethics but also tacitly condoned

rule-bending or even willfully ignored cheating. An Air Force investigation concluded that no commanders participated in or knew about the specific forms of cheating in which 91 missile officers were implicated at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. But nine commanders, repre-

senting nearly the entire operational chain of command in the 341st Missile Wing, were fired and the wing commander, Col. Robert Stanley, was allowed to resign. "From the perspective of a young company-grade officer looking up the chain of command, leadership has

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

delivered conflicting messages" on integrity and test performance, the report said. Leaders pressured young officers to achieve high scores "while tacitly condoning" acts that "take care of" crew members who might otherwise fall short of the expected

perfect result, it said. This "blurs the line between acceptable help and unacceptable cheating," it said. Malmstrom is home to one of three Air Force intercontinental ballistic missile wings, each responsible for 150 Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles. □

Michigan: US recognizes same-sex couple marriages

COREY WILLIAMS
ROGER SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on Friday extended federal recognition to the marriages of about 300 same-sex couples that took place in Michigan before a federal appeals court put those unions on hold.

Holder's action will enable the government to extend eligibility for federal benefits to the Michigan couples who married Saturday, which means they can file federal taxes jointly, get federal pension benefits for spouses and request legal immigration status for partners, among other benefits. The attorney general said the families should not be asked to endure uncertainty regarding their benefits while courts decide the is-

sue of same-sex marriage in Michigan. Holder did the same thing in Utah, where more than 1,000 same-sex couples got married before the U.S. Supreme Court put those unions on hold in January after a federal judge overturned the conservative state's same-sex marriage ban in December. Seventeen states and Washington, D.C., issue licenses for same-sex marriages. Since December, bans on gay marriage also have been overturned by courts in Texas, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Virginia, but appeals have put those cases on hold.

Holder's decision came a week after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman in Detroit struck down the gay marriage ban and two days after Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder called last

weekend's marriages legal but said Michigan won't recognize them.

Snyder told reporters following an unrelated bill signing in Lansing that Holder's actions weren't a surprise "because of the situation in Utah and the position he took there."

However, it does "create more complexity," Snyder said. "... I'm sure we'll get a number of questions that we'll need to sort out about between the interrelationship of state and federal law."

Oakland County was one of four that took the extraordinary step of granting licenses Saturday just hours before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ordered a temporary halt.

The stay was extended indefinitely Tuesday. □

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FBI sting shows San Francisco Chinatown underworld

GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Beneath the strings of red paper lanterns and narrow alleyways of the nation's oldest Chinatown lies a sinister underworld, according to an FBI criminal complaint that has stunned even those familiar with the neighborhood's history of gambling houses, opium dens and occasional gangland-style murders.

The federal charges, which allege a California lawmaker accepted money and campaign donations in exchange for providing official favors and helping broker an arms deal, cast harsh light on Chinatown's tight-knit network of fraternal organizations and one of its most shadowy characters, Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow.

Investigators say Chow is the leader — the dragonhead — of one of the most powerful Asian gangs in North America. Chow's gang is said to have lured state Sen. Leland Yee into its clutches through money and campaign contributions in exchange for legislative help, as Yee sought to build his campaign coffers to run for California secretary of state.

Born in Hong Kong in 1960, Chow came to the United States at 16 and was reportedly nicknamed "Shrimp Boy" by his grandmother, in part due to his small stature.

After dropping out of high school, Chow rose within the ranks of the local Hop Sing Tong gang after he and his crew survived a 1977 shooting at a Chinatown restaurant that left five dead and about a dozen people injured.

Chow then spent a few years inside San Quentin Prison for a robbery conviction, and after his release, he started working with the Hong Kong-based Wo Hop To triad, one of numerous Chinese underground societies linked to organized crime.

Chow has admitted that as a gang leader, he ran prostitution rings, smuggled

drugs and extorted thousands of dollars from business owners in the 1980s.

"He was given like an unofficial position of being a leader, but to say he was sophisticated, no. He was more like a forceful brute," said Ignatius Chinn, a former California Department of Justice agent who spent years investigating Chow in the early 1990s.

"If he didn't get his way, he would just beat the door

Ghee Kung Tong to launder money, receive and transport stolen property and traffic in contraband cigarettes during a FBI sting.

Longtime residents and observers said the startling allegations revealed the continued presence of organized crime in the popular tourist attraction and home to one of the largest Chinese communities outside Asia.

"Chinatown is a very safe

where elderly people play mahjong, also brought into focus its centuries-old history. The tong was founded in the late 1880s to support immigrants from Hong Kong and elsewhere in the Pearl Delta region. Amid morning rain showers Wednesday, federal agents and fire crews stormed the building to crack a safe that authorities say was at least a century old.

fixture at political events for a while," said Lee, who also teaches political science at San Francisco State University.

The 137-page complaint, whose many twists are reminiscent of "American Hustle," does not reveal whether Yee had any connection to Chow before the FBI got involved.

Yee, a progressive Democrat born in China, built his political fortune partly



In this photo taken August 11, 2013, state Senator Leland Yee, second from left, and Raymond "Shrimp Boy" Chow, right, are shown attending a Chinese restaurant grand opening ceremony in Daly City, Calif. Investigators say Chow is the leader and the dragonhead of one of the most powerful Asian gangs in North America. Chow's gang is said to have lured state Sen. Leland Yee into its clutches through money and campaign contributions in exchange for legislative help, as Yee sought to build his campaign coffers to run for California secretary of state.

(AP Photo/Sing Tao Daily)

down and that was how we put cases on him."

Although he ultimately was convicted of gun charges and sentenced to 25 years to life in the 1990s, Chow cut a deal to win release and returned to Chinatown several years ago, pledging to stay straight. His work with at-risk youth soon won accolades from prominent politicians.

But the complaint alleges that Chow used his position as the dragonhead of the

place and usually the crime you hear about there is just robberies and people being taken advantage of," said Joseph Leung, editor for the San Francisco edition of The Sing Tao Daily, the largest circulation Chinese newspaper in the U.S. "That's why this is all so shocking."

The pre-dawn FBI raid Wednesday at the Ghee Kung Tong's office, next to a massage parlor and across from a benevolent society

The organization is among dozens of active tongs, or family associations, in Chinatown, and Chow assumed control when its former president, Allen Leung, was shot to death by a masked gunman at his import-export store in 2006, said David Lee, director of the Chinese American Voters Education Committee. "He kind of became like a gangster celebrity. He was on parole, he had an ankle bracelet and he became a

through Chinatown connections and had never lost a race until his failed bid for San Francisco mayor in 2011.

A few years before that, Chow's own political star began rising. Around 2008, he began meeting with at-risk youth to talk with kids about how to stay on the straight and narrow, said Rudy Corpuz Jr., executive director of the youth-led violence prevention organization United Playaz. □

US Financial Front:

American consumer spending up modest 0.3 percent

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans barely increased their spending in February following a weak January performance, strong evidence that the severe winter will hold back the economy in the first quarter.

Consumer spending rose 0.3 percent in February following an even weaker 0.2 percent rise in January, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The January performance was cut in half from an initial estimate of 0.4 percent.

For February, spending on autos and other durable goods actually fell and much of the small gain reflected higher utility payments to pay heating costs. Analysts said consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, has slowed significantly in the January-March quarter and will hold back overall economic growth. But they are looking for a rebound in the spring as the weather improves.

Based on the weak February performance and the downward revision to January, economists at Barclays said they were trimming their forecast for overall economic growth in the first quarter to a 2 percent rate, down from a previous

estimate of 2.4 percent. Analysts believe a second quarter rebound will be driven by pent-up demand for the purchase of items such as cars that were put off during the winter storms. "We expect consumer spending to be significantly stronger in the second quarter," said Chris G. Christopher, director of consumer economics at Global Insight. "Auto sales are expected to heat up in March and for the remainder of the year."

The report showed that after-tax income was up 0.3 percent in February, the same as in January.

The saving rate edged up slightly to 4.3 percent of after-tax income compared to January, when the saving rate was 4.2 percent.

The report showed that inflation remains very low. An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending was up just 0.9 percent in February compared to a year ago, significantly below the 2 percent target set by the Federal Reserve.

The Fed last week approved another reduction in its monthly bond buying, which the central bank is doing to lower long-term interest rates and boost economic growth. But some economists are concerned that if the Fed removes its support too quickly, it could undermine efforts to



A sale sign is displayed in a shoe store in the Shadyside shopping district of Pittsburgh. The Commerce Department releases personal income and spending for February on Friday, March 28, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

get prices rising closer to the target.

Economists expect that spending will rebound in the April-June period, helping to boost overall economic growth to its strongest pace in nearly a de-

cade.

Many analysts foresee the economy growing 3 percent for the year, after a weak first quarter. It would be the most robust annual expansion since 2005, two years before the Great Re-

cession began.

The National Association for Business Economics is predicting that the economy will grow 3.1 percent this year, far higher than the lackluster 1.9 percent gain in 2013. □

US consumer confidence slips in March; winter not a factor

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. consumer sentiment slipped in March from the previous month, as Americans said they were less likely to buy cars and homes because of slightly higher interest rates.

The University of Michigan says its consumer sentiment index dipped to 80 in March from 81.6 in February.

That's still about five points higher than last fall, when sentiment fell during the

government shutdown. The index was 82.5 in December.

Economists say that the figures suggest confidence didn't take a big hit during the harsh winter. That could bode well for spending as the weather improves.

And Americans are more optimistic about the economy this year. One out of three respondents said they expect their finances to improve in the year ahead, the highest proportion since the recession ended in June 2009. □

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BMW plans \$1 billion expansion in South Carolina

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

GREER, South Carolina
(AP) —

BMW is celebrating its 20th anniversary of building cars in the United States by investing \$1 billion in its plant in South Carolina to build two of its new X-series vehicles at the facility that ushered in a wave of foreign automakers building Southern plants.

The German automaker announced Friday it will produce the X7, a larger SUV with three rows of seats similar to a Cadillac Escalade. The company will also make the X4, a sportier version of the X3 coupe and plans to build a plug-in hybrid version of its smaller X5 SUV.

The \$1 billion will be spent through 2016 at the plant in Greer, a town in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

BMW said it will hire 800 additional workers, bringing total employment at the plant to 8,800 people. The Greer plant will make 450,000 vehicles a

year by 2016, becoming the largest of the company's 28 plants around the world.

Almost 300,000 BMWs were made in South Carolina last year, and more than 2.6 million vehicles have rolled off the plant's assembly lines in the past two decades.

BMW first started making cars in South Carolina in 1994 after months of courtship from around the country. The plant has become as much of a part of the state's modern cultural landscape as the barbecue.

The company said access to interstate highways, rail lines and the Atlantic Ocean were the state's biggest draws. About 70 percent of the vehicles made at the Greer plant are exported, most on ships out of the port in Charleston. BMW planned to make 50,000 vehicles a year on the day in June 1992 when then Gov. Carroll Campbell drove away from the announcement of the German automak-



Dr. Norbert Reithofer, Chairman of the Board of Management, BMW Group, right, speaks with a new BMW X4 in the background during a news conference at the BMW manufacturing plant in Greer, S.C., Friday, March 28, 2014. The company announced a \$1 billion expansion for the plant.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

er's first foreign plant in a sedan with a South Carolina "BMW 1" license plate. BMW officials said the success that has led production to increase ninefold was beyond the wildest dreams of the team that planned the Greer factory.

"There is no doubt. Our decision to come to South Carolina was the right one," BMW CEO Norbert Reithofer said.

To Reithofer's left on Friday was the white BMW 318i that rolled off the assembly line in Greer in September 1994 to become the first BMW made outside Germany.

To his right, a BMW employee drove up a new X4

on a platform in a shower of fog and lights. And just beyond the glass wall behind him, workers never stopped putting molding and upholstery panels on the doors of vehicles as they came down the line. BMW officials said they only reached this milestone because their employees have been so talented.

Reithofer, who managed the South Carolina plant for several years, called the region his home away from home.

"We have learned to appreciate America and its people. Twenty years after opening this plant, I am proud to say we at the BMW Group are proud to

say we are a real part of America," Reithofer said. BMW was a pioneer for the automotive industry in the American South.

Mercedes-Benz followed with a plant in Alabama a year later, and in the past two decades, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen have all followed with plants built in rural Southern locations not far from decent-sized cities. The foreign automakers also benefited from cheaper, non-unionized labor.

Earlier this year, workers at the Volkswagen plant near Chattanooga, Tennessee, refused a vote to organize, even with management's blessing. □

GM warns dealers on some Chevy Cruzes

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. has told dealers to stop selling about 21,000 Chevrolet Cruze compact cars from the 2013 and 2014 model years. But the company won't say why.

The order covers Cruzes equipped with 1.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder gasoline engines. Spokesman Alan Adler said Friday it includes about one-third of the Cruzes on dealer lots across the nation. At the end of February, GM

had 63,714 Cruzes in dealer stock, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

The move comes as GM deals with fallout from a delayed recall of 1.6 million older small cars to fix an ignition switch problem. The Detroit company says the switches can slip out of the run position and shut down the engine. That causes loss of power steering and brakes and disables air bags.

GM says the problem has been linked to 31 crash-

es and at least a dozen deaths.

Dealers say stop-sale orders are routine and almost always made to fix a safety problem. They received the order in an email Thursday, but no reason was given. More information is expected on Monday.

GM spokesmen said they don't have further details on the Cruze.

The stop-sale order was first reported Friday by the trade publication Automotive News. □

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Protests ignite in Egypt after el-Sissi announces candidacy

MAGGIE HYDE

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP)—Hundreds of supporters of ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi took to the streets Friday to protest the decision by the country's former military chief to run in upcoming presidential elections, sparking scattered clashes that claimed four lives.

The former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi led the ouster of Morsi in July after millions joined demonstrations demanding he step down. El-Sissi resigned from the military and made his much-anticipated announcement launching his presidential campaign Wednesday. He is widely expected to win.

Friday's rallies took place in several cities, including areas in and around the capital of Cairo and in the northern city of Alexandria. Demonstrators attempted to block a main road with burning tires in Cairo that leads to the famed Giza pyramids, and students from the Islamic university of Al-Azhar threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at security forces.

Among those killed was a female journalist named Mayada Ashraf who died while covering clashes in the eastern Cairo district of



Supporters of the ousted Egypt's ousted President Mohamed Morsi march in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, March 28, 2014. Hundreds of Egyptian protesters took to the streets Friday, some clashing with security forces, to protest the decision by former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to run in upcoming presidential elections.

Ain Shams.

A 39-year-old protester named Mohammed who was at the scene said Ashraf was steps away from him when she was shot in the head by security forces using live ammunition. He gave only his first name out of fear of retribution.

But an Interior Ministry spokesman, Hani Abdel-Latif, blamed the Muslim Brotherhood for Friday's

killings. He said that armed protesters opened fire randomly, killing three, and stabbed a Christian woman to death.

Ashraf works for the privately owned daily El-Dustor newspaper. It reported online that it had urged authorities to halt gunfire in the area to give ambulances a chance to retrieve the body of the slain journalist.

A second news portal that Ashraf contributed to, Masr al-Arabiya, or Arab Egypt, posted a video purportedly showing the journalist with her headscarf soaked in blood as she was being carried away over a protester's shoulder. In November, the same journalist told the privately owned ONTV network that she was attacked by protesters while covering

(AP Photo/Amru Taha)

Islamist students' demonstrations.

Authorities arrested dozens of supporters of the former Islamist president Morsi at protests in Cairo, Giza, Mansoura and Minya on Friday, according to security officials.

Dozens of el-Sissi's supporters also rallied in Alexandria and Cairo on Friday, waving Egyptian flags and raising posters bearing his picture. In his first interview following his resignation, published Friday in the Egyptian al-Watan and Kuwaiti al-Rai papers, el-Sissi said that he knows there's a huge responsibility ahead for him. He said he would offer "a practical plan that could be implemented in reality on the short term." "The people bore a lot the past few years and it's time to harvest the fruit of two revolutions," he said.

Supporters of Morsi and his group, the Muslim Brotherhood, said Thursday they will continue protests against what they called el-Sissi's "republic of fear." In the Suez Canal city of Port Said, security officials said two unidentified assailants on a motorcycle torched a stand built by locals supporting el-Sissi that was being used to distribute campaign materials. □



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Gunmen attempt to storm Kashmir army unit; 6 dead

AIJAZ HUSSAIN

Associated Press

Srinagar, India (AP) —

Gunmen disguised as Indian soldiers hijacked a car Friday in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing the driver and a passenger, and used it to try to storm an Indian army artillery unit, triggering a firefight that left four more people dead, authorities said.

At least three gunmen fired

on the vehicle in the Dayalchak area, about 340 kilometers (210 miles) south of Srinagar, wounding three of the passengers, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

An Indian army spokesman, Lt. Col. Rajesh Kalia, said after hijacking the car, the gunmen tried to storm an

Indian artillery unit about 30 kilometers (20 miles) away, but an "alert sentry foiled their attempt."

Army troops intercepted them and the three gunmen and a soldier were killed in the ensuing day-long gunbattle, the police officer said.

Both the police officer and army spokesman blamed anti-India rebels for the at-

tack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility from any rebel group fighting against Indian rule.

Last year, suspected rebels wearing Indian army uniforms stormed a police station and an army camp in the same region. Eight government troops, three attackers and two civilians were killed.

The divided Kashmir region,

claimed by both India and Pakistan, sees flares of violence as anti-India rebels step up demands for independence or incorporation into Pakistan.

About 68,000 people have been killed since 1989 in an armed uprising and subsequent crackdown by Indian forces. While the rebellion has largely been suppressed, anti-India resentment still runs deep. □

Taliban militants attack foreigners in Afghan capital

AMIR SHAH

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

Taliban militants attacked the residence of an American charity and a nearby day care center Friday in Kabul, sending foreigners — including women and children — fleeing the scene while Afghan security forces battled the gunmen holed up in the building. An Afghan girl and a driver were killed in the crossfire, officials said.

An uptick in bold attacks on foreigners in the Afghan capital suggests the Taliban are shifting tactics to focus on civilian targets that aren't as heavily protected as military and government installations as part of an overall surge in violence ahead of April 5 elections.

It also appears aimed at sending a message that the U.S. and its allies aren't wanted as the Obama administration presses the Afghan government to sign a security agreement that would allow thousands of

international troops to stay after the NATO-mandated combat mission ends in December.

The assault Friday evening began in a way typical of the Taliban, which claimed responsibility for it in a statement. A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives in front of the four-story building housing workers with the California-based Roots of Peace, then four gunmen rushed into the compound.

Roots of Peace said the organization's guards pursued the attackers into the house and killed two of them, while four foreigners — two Americans, a South African and a Malaysian — took cover inside. Two foreigners went to the roof while the other two hunkered down in their rooms, the group's president Gary Kuhn said.

One man survived by hiding in the closet with clothes pulled over himself, even after a grenade was thrown in his room, Kuhn said in an email from his office in San Rafael, Califor-

nia.

Members of the Afghan National Police rapid reaction force, wearing helmets

and bulletproof vests, cordoned off the area.

Kuhn said an adjacent day care center filled mainly

with the children of foreigners also was hit, although it was unclear if it was actually targeted. □



An Afghan policeman blocks the road after four suicide bombers armed with assault rifles and hand grenades attacked an "office of foreigners" in a southwestern neighborhood of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, March 28, 2014. A Taliban spokesman said insurgents attacked a "guest house of foreigners and a church of foreigners." His claim could not be immediately confirmed.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

U.N. rights panel seeks support for North Korea inquiry

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE

© 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - In one of its stronger resolutions, the U.N. Human Rights Council urged global powers Friday to back an international criminal investigation of North Korea for crimes against humanity and to consider targeted sanctions against those responsible.

In a resolution that the council's 47 members adopted by a vote of 30-

6, with 11 abstentions, it called on the U.N. Security Council to take action, including referring North Korea to some form of international judicial process "in order that those responsible for human rights violations, including those that may amount to crimes against humanity, are held to account."

"You couldn't expect a stronger resolution," Julie de Rivero, Geneva direc-

tor of Human Rights Watch, said of the measure. "The package as a whole is unprecedented."

The reaction from North Korea was blunt.

"Mind your own business," its ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, So Se-pyong, told the Human Rights Council, rejecting the resolution as "a product of confrontation" and rebuffing calls for cooperation with U.N. rights moni-

tors. "No person on Earth would be so stupid as to keep the door open to a gangster who is attacking with a sword."

Leaving the council after the vote, he told journalists, "This will aggravate tensions; it will make things worse."

The resolution closely followed the recommendations of a commission of inquiry submitted last month that was considered the

most authoritative assessment of human rights in North Korea. Led by a retired Australian judge, Michael Kirby, the commission documented in often gruesome detail violations ranging from the "crime of extermination" to the brutal conditions in concentration camps, including enslavement, torture, rape and persecution on grounds of race, religion and gender. □



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Severe drought in Haiti ravages crops for farmers

TRENTON DANIEL

Associated Press

BOMBARDOPOLIS, Haiti (AP) — Jean-Romain Beltnor plunged a hoe into the rocky dirt on his parched hillside to prepare for planting seeds he does not have.

After months of drought in northwest Haiti, the subsistence farmer struggles to find food for his 13 children. To earn a little money, he must turn to work that only makes things worse, cutting what little wood remains for charcoal.

"The rain isn't falling. I can't feed my family," said Beltnor, a taciturn man with a creased face and a hint of orange hair, as he yanked old roots from his small plot of land. "Sometimes you spend a couple of days without food."

Drought is hitting one of the hungriest, most desolate parts of the most impoverished nation in the hemisphere and it has alarmed international aid organizations such as the U.N. World Food Program, which sent workers this week to pass out bulgur wheat, cooking oil and salt.

The agency said it has given food to 164,000 people in the region so far, and the government said it has handed out 6,000 seed kits for farmers.

Officials hope to tide people over through the rainy season that is supposed to begin in April and until harvest in June.

Rainfall for the "Far West" region this year has been just 50 percent of average so far. And it follows sub-par rainfall for 2012 and 2013, according to data produced by the U.S. Geological Survey for the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, which tracks weather, agricultural pro-

duction and food prices in an effort to avert famine.

"Families are unable to afford things like seeds for the upcoming agricultural season, school fees and medicine," said Chris Hillbruner, a senior adviser for the network. "It also means that they are facing difficulties meeting their basic food needs." Farmers have had to sell their livestock, to eat the grain needed for planting. Animals not sold are often emaciated, or fall victim to disease.

Beltnor's wife, Jenilia Jean-Baptiste, said she received a \$35 government handout in September, just before the rains stopped.

"I spent the money on school tuition, shoes for my children but it wasn't enough," Jean-Baptiste said from the doorway of her home of tree branches and straw.

Many of Beltnor's children, six of them with Jean-Baptiste, bear the tell-tale signs of malnutrition: Orange and thin hair, bloated bellies, prominent ribs and



In this Wednesday, March 26, 2014 photo, Jeanilia Jean-Baptiste, 38, left, walks her children to pre-school in Bombardopolis, Haiti. Bombardopolis is relatively fortunate in its misery. It sits atop a plateau called "The Platform" that overlooks the Caribbean, and it still has some healthy-looking trees. But the drought puts those too at risk.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

pencil-thin limbs.

"When they were born they looked like real kids, healthy, but as they've grown up they've started to look unhealthy," Jean-Baptiste said.

Even before the drought began, a government report found chronic malnutrition affecting a quarter of the region's people. Five percent suffered acute malnutrition.

Since then, malnutrition among children has spiked, said Faith Leach, an administrator who has worked at the Evangelical Hospital in Bombardopolis for almost two decades. □

St. Vincent police probe death of British sailor

DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Authorities in the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent are investigating the death of a British man whose body was found on a life raft near his burned and sunken yacht.

John Edward Garner, 53, had injuries to his head and both legs, and he was pronounced dead at a hospital in the capital of Kingstown, Police Inspector Hawkins Nanton said Friday in a phone interview. Police are now trying to find Garner's Norwegian girlfriend for questioning,

he said.

"We are investigating all angles," Nanton said. "We have not made a definitive decision." He said police were notified Wednesday around noon that a yacht was on fire just west of St. Vincent, and when authorities arrived, the Gibraltar-registered Asante yacht had already sunk.

"All that was found was debris and oil spill," Nanton said.

He said Garner had arrived in St. Vincent with his girlfriend on January 19, and that they were granted an extension to remain until April 19.

Garner is the second British sailor to die in the eastern Caribbean in the past two months. In mid-January, 62-year-old British tourist Roger Pratt was assaulted and killed and his wife beaten when several men boarded their yacht just off the island of St. Lucia. Four men have been charged in the case.

Dick Stoute, vice president of the Caribbean Sailing Association, said the two cases have raised concerns about crime in the Caribbean.

"I don't think it's particularly severe, but it does exist," he said in a phone

interview, noting that the circumstances surrounding Garner's death are still being investigated. "The other factor is safety on yachts. There are many people sailing who have little experience."

It is not uncommon for people to die from propane stove explosions on yachts, according to Sally Erdle, editor of the St. Vincent-based Caribbean Compass, a monthly publication for sailors.

She noted that two people died from that type of explosion in January 2012 on a boat off Venezuela's coast. □

Stakes high for Cuba foreign investment law

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban authorities are on the verge of enacting a new foreign investment law considered one of the most vital building blocks of President Raul Castro's effort to reform the country's struggling economy.

The law is seen as so important that an extraordinary session of parliament has been scheduled for Saturday so the matter doesn't wait several months until the regular summer session. Few concrete details have been made public, but this week official media gave some hints of what the draft law looks like.

The newspaper Juventud Rebelde said it will allow foreign participation in all sectors except health and education, and not only through joint partnerships with the socialist government. Also allowed would be an "international economic association contract, or business of completely foreign capital."

Juventud Rebelde said most companies would be taxed at 15 percent of profits, half what they pay under current rules, and they will be exempt from paying for the first eight years of operation. Investors apparently will not see their personal income taxed.

Duties may be higher for operations that exploit natural resources, such as nickel and fossil fuels.

Foreign investment in the Communist-run country has lagged behind expectations in recent years, and the shortfall is seen as a major reason for disappointing economic growth. Analysts say that officials must show

they are truly committed to easing the way for foreign firms if this latest attempt to lure overseas capital is to succeed.

"It's really about (creating) a business climate in which business feels government at senior levels has an unambiguously favorable attitude toward foreign investors," said Richard Feinberg, a professor of international political economy at the University of Califor-

nia, San Diego. "That's the best guarantee."

"If this law gives the right signals," Feinberg said, "it would be a major step forward in the economic reforms."

Cuba isn't the easiest place for a foreign businessperson to make a buck. Labor taxes are high, there is no open bidding for projects, the approval process is opaque and cumber-

some and the government has been reluctant to let outsiders have majority ownership. Companies often find themselves negotiating multimillion-dollar deals with government officials who earn tiny salaries, and some say payoffs are an unfortunate part of doing business in Cuba. At the same time, a crackdown on graft, including the jailing of Canadian, Chilean,

say Cuba can make itself more attractive to investors by doing things like making approvals more transparent, easing payroll taxes, enabling direct hiring of local employees and relaxing rules that require foreign companies to purchase a certain amount of local inputs.

The rules described in Juventud Rebelde would be almost as favorable as those already in place for



Workers landscape the area near a new port under construction in Mariel, Cuba. Cuban authorities are on the verge of enacting a new foreign investment law considered one of the most vital building blocks of President Raul Castro's effort to reform the country's struggling economy.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

Czech, English and French citizens, has sent a chill through the foreign business community.

Then there's the 52-year-old U.S. embargo, which bars most American trade with the island and effectively obliges many foreign companies to choose between doing business with Cuba or the United States. There's no sign the embargo will be lifted anytime soon, but observers

a special economic development zone at Mariel, a massive port project west of Havana that was formally inaugurated in January.

Officials are also talking of guarantees that the property of foreign companies and individuals will not be nationalized as happened after the 1959 Cuban Revolution, except in cases of national interest and only with due compensation. □

Japanese family spending falls on new sales taxes

ELAINE KURTENBACH
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese household spending fell 1.5 percent in February from a year earlier, suggesting consumers are tightening belts ahead of an April 1 hike in the country's sales tax.

The government also reported Friday that core consumer prices rose 1.3 percent in February, though a large share of the increase was due to rising energy costs.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is striving to spur inflation to pull Japan out of a two-decade economic slump. The strategy hinges on getting consumers and businesses to make purchases sooner rather than later. But so far wages have not risen, and the rising cost of living seems to be triggering still more belt-tightening.

Overall, the economic data is mixed. Retail sales rose 2.8 percent from a year earlier, but cold weather put a damper on car sales, which fell nearly 6 percent year-on-year. Unemployment fell to 3.6 percent from 3.7 percent the month before, but seasonally adjusted household incomes fell 1.3 percent.

"Household spending data for February is not that good," said Junko Nishioka, an economist at RBS Japan Securities. But she noted that prices for durable goods such as television sets are rising as manufacturers pass higher costs on to consumers.

Spending is likely to rebound in March on a rush of last minute buying, she said.

Starting next month, Japan's sales tax will rise from 5 percent to 8 percent, and economists expect that will drag on growth but not derail the stimulus-driven recovery that began last year.

Abe has pledged to seek more stimulus for the economy if the tax hike proves a harsher blow than expected. □

Spain falls into deflation, upping pressure on ECB

MADRID (AP) — Spain's inflation rate dipped into negative territory this month, official data showed Friday, a development likely to add pressure on the European Central Bank to ease its monetary policies.

The National Statistics Institute said consumer prices in the eurozone's fourth-largest economy fell 0.2

percent in March compared with a year earlier. Falling prices, or deflation, can be a risk if they are protracted. Deflation can choke off growth as consumers and businesses delay purchases in hopes of getting better bargains down the line, and can be very difficult to get out of. The ECB aims to keep inflation just below 2 percent,

but the 18-country currency zone's rate was only 0.7 percent in February, revised downward last week from an initial estimate of 0.8 percent. Figures for March are due Monday, and the Spanish dip could contribute to a drop, analysts say.

Belgian's statistics agency on Friday also reported a lower annualized March in-

flation rate of 0.9 percent, compared with 1 percent a month earlier.

Analyst Ralph Solveen of Germany's Commerzbank said the latest figures suggest Monday's inflation figure for the eurozone will show another drop to 0.6 percent.

The ECB's next rate-setting meeting will take place Thursday. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Manchebo Beach Resort teams up with Aruba Doet once again!



EAGLE BEACH - Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa and Aruba Doet participants, teamed up with KWF (Koninkin Wilhelmina Kankerfonds) recently to organize a fun get-together afternoon for KWF's clients who have some form of cancer. This event included a nice lunch at the Pavilion on the beach, starting at 11:00 a.m. along with musical entertainment. Hotel team members, volunteers from the KWF & Aruba Doet volunteers also assisted, giving a positive impression of combined efforts of all parties involved. In addition to the above, Manchebo's contribution also included participation/donation of food and beverage items for approx. 70 persons at the BBQ held at Nikki Beach by Aruba Doet along with FARVa. FARVa is a foundation that deals with the validation rowing for people with mental and /or physical disabilities and/or challenges. The organizers of the foun-

greatly from the manpow-
er and also the donations
that most of them have re-
ceived.

ARUBA DOET is organized by CEDE ARUBA in partnership with Oranje Fonds. CEDE Aruba is a foundation dedicated to the development of the social sector with knowledge and funding. The Oranje Funds supports social initiatives within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The King of Orange and Queen Máxima are the protectors of the foundation.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is proud to continuously



help sustain local charities and foundations in need, where public support is un-
available and pitch in to assist much-needed social events & projects..□



dation headed by Jan Broeksema, planned a special rowing event between the hours of 9:00 & 12:00 noon on the sea between Talk of the Town and the old Governor's house, also part of FARVa's shed located at Nikki Beach needed some refurbishing and an "Open Public Day" for interested people, clients and volunteers was held.

ARUBA DOET gives foundations, care institutions, schools and sport associations the chance to complete small jobs that never got finished due to lack of staff.

The success of ARUBA DOET is made possible by the commitment and assistance of a large amount of participants; individual volunteers and families, companies, schools and foundations/institutions. ARUBA DOET has also become successful thanks to the commitment and organizational skills of all coordinators. Institutions benefit



The Casino at the Radisson reveals its activity-filled Easter weekend!



PALM BEACH - The Casino at the Radisson is planning a fun-filled Easter Weekend to include a Freeze Out Poker Tournament, on Friday April 18th, buy in US\$100 + US\$20 and received 10,000 tournament chips. Patrons are asked to sign up at 7:30pm, as the tournament begins at 8pm.

Two bingo dates, one on Saturday, April 19th, and the other on Sunday, April 20th, are planned. On Saturday, bingo starts at 1pm, US\$6 a card, with US\$1,000 in prizes, also offering door prizes.

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, a Super Bingo will be played, US\$10 a card, with

US\$2,450 in prizes, and 10 door prizes. The giant Progressive Jackpot will be played on game 8 and game 9, a full card, posts a cash prize of US\$1,000. Easter Monday will introduce the Spin to Win Slot Tournament with cash prizes, at 9pm. The casino also offers its regular fun promotions such as the Mystery Jackpot, offering patrons a chance to win \$250, at random, double points from 12 noon to 3pm and Saturday & Sunday from 4pm to 6pm. The casino is inviting you to come celebrate your birthday and receive \$10 in free play.

Pictured here, Charles Corbett, staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino and Spa who won the Royal Flush on Let It Ride earning him more than US\$15,000, with a winning hand of A-K-Q-J-10 of diamonds. The Casino at the Radisson is open daily from 12 noon to 4am, Saturday & Sunday 11am to 4 am. For information call +297 526 6930.□

Beauty On The Beach

Tendresse Tutsch

She is from Hengelo, Holland. This is her first time in Aruba, she is staying with locals for one month. She loves the Beach.

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MIAMI(PXP) - State-of-the-art medical facilities, groundbreaking medical technology, easy access to health institutions, competitive prices, personalized attention and proximity, make Colombia an ideal destination for health-related treatments, high-complexity procedures and rehabilitation. The country has become one of the main health destinations in Latin America and is a pioneer in creating its own accreditation systems.

"Colombian medicine is acknowledged not only in Latin America but worldwide, which is why the country has been positioning itself as an ideal destination for medical treatments," explained Proexport President, Maria Claudia Lacouture. "In addition, Colombian healthcare professionals are highly regarded worldwide due to their strong academic and professional background." Several clinics and hospitals in Colombia count with national and international accreditations. One of the most important is the Joint Commissions International (JCI) world health accreditation, which certifies the quality standards for providing services at an international level. This is achieved through a rigorous process of sustained improvement and optimization, verified by the Colombian government. There are three Colombian institutions currently accredited by the JCI and more than 30 with other accreditations.

The Fundacion Cardiovascular of Bucaramanga is one of the institutions accredited by the JCI and is also one of the clinics that have teamed up with Proexport Colombia to introduce the international-patient program in the Caribbean. Proexport de-

veloped the campaign "Choose Colombia" as a way to present the country's health sector on an international level. Ten clinics from four different regions in Colombia joined the campaign to promote their services and treatments available for international patients.

From Bucaramanga, Clinica Fosal and Clinica Cardiovascular; from Medellin, Hospital Pablo Tobon Uribe, Salud Sin Fronteras, Clinica Las Vegas, Clinica San Vicente Fundacion (SVF); from Bogota, Clinica Colsanitas and Clinica Shaio; and from Barranquilla, Clinica General del Norte and Centro Genavie.

As confirmed by The World Health Organization (WHO), the high-quality, efficient management and executive accomplishments have placed Colombia as a regional leader in healthcare services, ranking Colombia as first in Latin America. In addition, AmericaEconomía ranked 18 Colombian clinics among the Top 45 in Latin America, making Colombia a desirable destination in terms of healthcare assistance, resulting in a considerable growth in medical tourism and patients from all over the world visiting the country. "Patients Choose Colombia for its proximity and easy connection to the main cities in the country. The Dominican Republic, Curacao and Aruba for example, offer direct flights to Colombia in less than two hours," said Lacouture. The services offered by some of the top clinics include Neurosurgery, Cardiology Services, Oncology (Cancer Treatments), Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Treatments, Dental Medicine, Urology, Plastic Surgery and Executive Check-ups. The main cities where the treatments take place are Bogota and Medellin. However, other emerging cities such as Bucaramanga, Barranquilla, Cali, and Cartagena also provide general and specialized healthcare services.□

Aruba's first "jewelry therapy session" was held last Wednesday night



The first "jewelry therapy session" in Aruba was held at the Divi Village Golf Villas and was attended by ladies of all ages and from all over the world; USA, Holland, Aruba and even Poland. While enjoying some wine, fruit punch, dips and crackers, a twenty minute presentation and demonstration of the beautiful jewelry kept the invited guests attention, knowing that after the demonstration it would be play-time: try it on and create your own combinations! This is how it works: simply twist

blueberry off the ring and replace with plum, then try on the key lime or bubble gum color on the bracelet, matching it up with the earrings. So many combinations are possible. And oh boy, did the ladies have fun! Not to mention that most of the ladies ended up owning interchangeable jewelry sets themselves. This fantastic, USA based company called "Kalypso TwistZ" consists of true, 925 Sterling Silver, interchangeable jewelry, using a variety of rings, pendants, bangles

and earrings that allow interchangeability by simply choosing a topper called an "Xpression". With the warranted fastening system, you simply twist and lock it into place. It is Invigorating and therapeutic, bright and full of color, and the first direct sales jewelry company to ever partner with the World Renowned Fenton Glass Company. With Fenton Glass, they have created the most exquisite, colorful beads to accommodate all types of jewelry lovers!

Kalypso Jewelry features a precision aligning mechanism so you get many gorgeous looks from one piece of jewelry. It is about how you feel knowing you are in charge. It is great to know you can match your jewelry to the color you are wearing! Wear your jewelry to match any occasion. Elegant in the morning to WOW at night! All colors of the rainbow are available. Kalypso TwistZ product line consists of several .925 Sterling Silver ring Bases, 2 Bangles, 2 Pendants, and Ear-



ring bases. Each base allows interchangeability between each other to choose the look that best expresses your mood for the day. Currently there are over 100 Xpressions to choose from with new designs being designed and introduced quarterly. The Xpressions are set in 925 Sterling Silver with stones made from Quartz, Topaz, Onyx, Mother of Pearl, Abalone, Czech Crystal and more. By hosting these "jewelry therapy session s" yourself, not only will you love what you do, you will show off amazing jewelry that will

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MLB Preview

AL chase low-budget A's, Cardinals NL favorites

The Associated Press

The big-spending also-rans of recent years in the American League West division once more find themselves chasing those overachieving, low-budget Oakland Athletics.

Yet Bob Melvin's A's hardly consider themselves the favorite to win a third straight West crown, not in one of Major League Baseball's best divisions that appears to have become even better this offseason.

"There are probably teams that probably don't take them seriously, but we do," Texas Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre said. "They showed that they can get it done and as of right now, they're the champions of the West. So we're chasing them."

While New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter tries to finish his Hall of Fame career in pinstripes the way he started it, with a World Series title, and the Detroit Tigers aim to unseat the defending champion Boston

Red Sox, the West looks to be one of MLB's top divisions again this year.

"You can make a legitimate case that all five teams are better," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "You've got the Yankees and Dodgers and a number of clubs that made a lot of moves out there, Washington and others, but from a division-to-division standpoint, I don't know that any group was more active than the AL West."

Robinson Cano is the new star in Seattle—for the next decade, no less. The Texas lineup has been studded with first baseman Prince Fielder, traded from the Tigers, and outfielder Shin-Soo Choo, bought for \$130 million. Sluggers Josh Hamilton and Albert Pujols have something to prove for the playoff-starved Los Angeles Angels, who are feeling the pressure after missing the postseason for the past four years.

The A's made their share of

moves this winter, many via trade as general manager Billy Beane often does. But Oakland's changes are minor compared to the acquisitions of Cano and Fielder.

"We're still trying to prove people wrong," Oakland center fielder Coco Crisp said.

The Tigers have reached the AL Championship Series for three straight years, but a World Series title has remained elusive since 1984.

New manager Brad Ausmus takes over a team that even without pitcher Doug Fister, may have the AL's best rotation, assuming ace Justin Verlander comes back strong from core muscle surgery in January.

Miguel Cabrera hopes to be healthier than last year, when he was hobbled at the end but still won MVP honours for the second straight year.

Continued on page 22



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter smiles before a spring training baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, Fla., Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

Associated Press

MLB toughens drug agreement provisions

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball players suspended during the season for a performance-enhancing drug violation will not be eligible for that year's postseason under changes to the sport's drug agreement announced on Friday.

In the most significant toughening to the drug rules in eight years, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association said the penalty will increase from 50 games to 80 for a first testing violation and from 100 games to a season-long 162 for a second.



In this Dec. 3, 2013, file photo, Tony Clark, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, answers questions during a news conference in San Diego. At rear is executive board member Jeremy Guthrie.

Associated Press

A third violation remains a lifetime ban.

Baseball started testing with penalties in 2004, established a 10-day suspension for a first testing violation in 2005 and increased the discipline to 50 games in 2006.

While there were two-to-four major league suspensions annually from 2008-11, the number increased to 12 in 2012 and 14 players were penalized following last year's investigation of the Biogenesis of America anti-aging clinic.

Among them were All-Stars Jhonny Peralta and Nelson Cruz, former NL MVP Ryan

Braun and three-time AL MVP Alex Rodriguez, who is suspended for the entire 2014 season.

"Our hope here is that the adjustments that we've made do inevitably get that number to zero," said new union head Tony Clark, a former All-Star himself.

"In the event that that doesn't happen, for whatever reason, we'll reevaluate and move forward from there."

But as I sit here, I am hopeful that players make the right decisions that are best for them, for their careers and for the integrity of the game." □

Djokovic reaches Sony final; Nishikori withdraws

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)

— Novak Djokovic advanced without hitting a ball for the second time at the Sony Open, and now he's in the final.

Djokovic received his latest walkover Friday when Kei Nishikori withdrew less than two hours before their semifinal because of a left groin injury.

"I tried to warm up and I couldn't move" Nishikori said. "With anybody on the other side, I don't think I could win today."

The No. 2-ranked Djokovic also got a walkover in the third round and has played only six sets in the tournament. He'll try for his fourth Key Biscayne title Sunday against the winner of Friday night's match between No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 7 Tomas Berdych.

No. 1 Serena Williams will try for her seventh Key Biscayne title when she plays No. 2 Li Na on Saturday.

Former No. 1 Martina Hin-

gis advanced to her first doubles final since 2007 when she and Sabine Lisicki beat Cara Black and Sania Mirza 6-3, 6-4. Nishikori said his groin has bothered him for more than a month, and he retired during a match in Delray Beach last month. This week he won a won a three-set match against David Ferrer, saving four match points, and then beat Roger Federer in a three-setter Wednesday night.

The No. 21-ranked Nishikori said he won't need surgery, but he's unsure how long he'll be sidelined and will fly home to Japan to see a doctor. His next scheduled match is in Davis Cup for Japan against the Czech Republic in Toyko on April 4.

Nishikori has retired or withdrawn 14 times in his career, including three times in Grand Slam events. He was hoping to reach his first ATP Masters 1000 final.

"It was going to be a great challenge for me today,"



Kei Nishikori, of Japan, listens to a question at a news conference after he withdrew from his semifinal match against Novak Djokovic due to a left groin injury at the Sony Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 28, 2014, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

Nishikori said. "Hopefully I can play another time."

A Key Biscayne men's semifinal was also canceled in 2012 when Nadal withdrew because of a knee injury,

giving Andy Murray a walkover.

Djokovic will try to complete a March sweep Sunday. He won the Indian Wells title two weeks ago,

when he beat Federer in the final.

Regardless of results the rest of the week, Nadal will remain No. 1 and Djokovic No. 2 next week. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Sixers drop 26th straight, 120-98 to Rockets

The Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers equaled the NBA record with their 26th straight loss Thursday, as James Harden's triple-double led the Houston Rockets to a 120-98 victory. Harden had 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in three quarters for his second career triple-double as Houston picked up its fifth straight victory.

The 76ers (15-57) stuck around early before a big second-quarter run allowed the Rockets to pull away and roll to the win. Philadelphia matched the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers for the NBA's worst skid and can set the record at home against Detroit on Saturday.

James Anderson led the Sixers with 30 points and made six 3-pointers.

TRAIL BLAZERS 100, HAWKS 85

ATLANTA (AP) — LaMarcus

Aldridge had 25 points and 16 rebounds in his return from a back injury as Portland beat Atlanta to end a three-game losing streak. Damian Lillard added 21 points for the Trail Blazers, who had lost seven of 10 and were in danger of falling out of the fifth spot in the Western Conference playoff standings.

The Hawks have lost five straight. They lead the Knicks by only 1 1/2 games in the race for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Jeff Teague, who was scoreless in Wednesday night's loss at Minnesota, led the Hawks with 22 points. Lou Williams had 16 points, including 13 in the final period when Atlanta closed the deficit to six points.

BUCKS 108, LAKERS 105

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Brandon Knight scored 30 points and Ramon Sessions add-

ed 22 as Milwaukee beat Los Angeles to break an eight-game losing streak. The Bucks swept the season series with the Lakers for the first time since 2006-07. Knight scored a career-high 37 points in Milwaukee's 94-79 victory on Dec. 31 in the other meeting. Khris Middleton added 14 points for the Milwaukee, which won for only the 14th time this season.

Jordan Hill had 28 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, while Nick Young added 17 points.

Houston Rockets' Terrence Jones (6) dunks as Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young looks on during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Thursday, March 27, 2014, in Houston. Houston won 120-98.

Associated Press



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NHL Capsules

Bergeron scores twice, Bruins top Blackhawks 3-0

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron scored two goals as the Bruins beat the defending champion Chicago Blackhawks 3-0 on Thursday night in the first meeting between the teams in Boston since the deciding game of the Stanley Cup finals.

Bergeron scored his first goal at 11:50 of the first period, and the Bruins broke the game open with goals by Carl Soderberg and Bergeron in a 13-second span early in the third.

Tuukka Rask stopped 28 shots in posting his NHL-leading seventh shutout.

Chicago, fourth in the Western Conference, remained one point short of clinching a playoff berth for the sixth straight season.

The Eastern Conference-leading Bruins rebounded from a 2-1 shootout loss to the Montreal Canadiens on Monday that ended Boston's 12-game winning streak. In their last 14 games, the Bruins have outscored opponents 51-19.

KINGS 3, PENGUINS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Drew Doughty scored early in the third period to give Los Angeles the lead for good as the Kings beat Pittsburgh for their franchise-record tying eighth straight road win.

Alec Martinez and Jeff Carter also scored for Los Angeles, and Martin Jones made 35 saves as the Kings matched the club road record set from Dec. 18, 1974-Jan. 16, 1975.

The Penguins rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie it on goals

by Chris Kunitz and Taylor Pyatt. Jeff Zatkoff stopped 29 shots but couldn't get a handle on Doughty's slap shot 3:51 into the third. Pittsburgh has lost three straight. A potential tying goal by Penguins forward Brandon Sutter midway through the third was waved off due to goaltender interference.

CANADIENS 5, RED WINGS 4
DETROIT (AP) — Max Pacioretty broke a third-period tie and Tomas Plekanec scored twice as Montreal beat Detroit.

Tomas Vanek added a goal and two assists, and David Desharnais had a goal and an assist for Montreal. P.K. Subban had two assists, and Carey Price made 26 saves.

Tomas Tatar scored two goals for Detroit, Riley Sheahan had a goal and an assist, and Johan Franzen also scored. Jimmy Howard stopped 24 shots.

BLUES 5, WILD 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — T.J. Oshie scored three goals for his first NHL hat trick, and Ryan Miller made 27 saves to lead St. Louis' rout of Minnesota.

St. Louis has won three in a row overall and nine straight against the Wild. The Blues lead the NHL with 107 points.

Minnesota has lost six of eight.

Jaden Schwartz and Brenden Morrow also scored for St. Louis, which has points in its last 10 home games. Miller improved to 9-2-1 since being acquired from Buffalo on Feb. 28.

Zach Parise scored for the



Los Angeles Kings' Jake Muzzin (6) collides with Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Associated Press

Wild, who had earned points in their previous three road games.

Oshie, who has a career-high 21 goals, scored twice in the first period — including a short-handed goal with 26 seconds left that made it 2-0. He completed the hat trick in the third.

COYOTES 3, DEVILS 2, SO
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

Thomas Greiss stopped all three New Jersey shootout attempts and Mikkel Boedker scored on Phoenix's first try as the Coyotes improved their playoff chances in the Western Conference.

The Coyotes, who hold the second wild card spot, earned five of six possible points during their three-game road trip and opened a five-point lead

over idle Dallas.

Kyle Chipchura and Chris Summers scored for the Coyotes, and Greiss made 26 saves, including two outstanding stops against Patrik Elias in overtime. He turned aside Damien Brunner, Ryane Clowe and Elias in the shootout.

HURRICANES 3, PANTHERS 0
SUNRISE, Florida (AP)

Jiri Tlusty scored twice and Anton Khudobin stopped 35 shots to lead Carolina over Florida.

Khudobin recorded his first shutout this season and the third of his NHL career. His last shutout was March 31, 2013, at Buffalo. Jeff Skinner also scored for the Hurricanes. Dan Ellis started the second period in relief of Roberto Luongo and made 18 saves. Luongo left after

the first because of an upper body injury sustained in a collision with Carolina's Radek Dvorak. The Panthers described it as a precautionary measure. Luongo stopped 11 of 12 shots.

Dvorak was ejected at 12:48 when he crashed into Luongo and sent him into the net, knocking it off its moorings.

LIGHTNING 3, ISLANDERS 2, SO

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Sami Salo scored in the 13th round of a shootout to lift Tampa Bay past the New York Islanders.

The shootout was tied at 4 through 12 rounds before Salo put a backhander past Evgeni Nabokov. Ben Bishop preserved the win by making a glove save on Jahan Sundstrom. □

Study: MMA brain injury risk higher than boxing

ALBANY, New York (AP) — A new study says about a third of professional mixed martial arts matches end in knockout or technical knockout, indicating a higher incidence of brain trauma than boxing or other martial arts.

The University of Toronto study published this month in the American Journal of Sports Medicine examined

records and videos from 844 bouts.

Researchers found nearly 13 percent ended in knockouts, while 21 percent ended in technical knockouts, usually after a combatant was hit in the head five to 10 times immediately before the fight was stopped.

The study says the MMA head trauma rate also out-

paces football and hockey.

Supporters of MMA call the study flawed and say another forthcoming study will have more accurate results.

New York is the last remaining state to prohibit professional MMA bouts. Longstanding efforts to get it legalized in the state recently stalled again for



In this April 20, 2013, file photo, Josh Thomson, top, punches Nate Diaz during the second round of a UFC lightweight mixed martial arts fight in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

advocates hoping to gain access to Madison Square

Garden and other New York venues. □

MLB preview

Continued from page 18

Meanwhile, the Red Sox will try to capture the magic again, minus many of those bushy beards this time. The pitching staff is full of experienced players such as Jon Lester, Clay Buchholz, John Lackey, Felix Doubront and Jake Peavy. There's no reason to believe the St. Louis Cardinals, whom Boston beat in six games in the World Series, can't win the National League Central for a sixth time in 11 years.

Adam Wainwright and postseason darling Michael Wacha are part of the division's best rotation. The lineup remains stacked even after Carlos Beltran departed in free agency. All-Star slugger Allen Craig missed much of the postseason last year, and the Cardinals still made it to the World Series.

The real intrigue in the division comes after the Cardinals. The Central had both



The Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig rounds third on his way to scoring during the second game of the two-game Major League Baseball opening series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Sunday, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

wild cards last season; the Pittsburgh Pirates, in the playoffs for the first time in 21 years, and the Cincinnati Reds.

The Pirates and Reds each lost a key player in free

agency, while the Milwaukee Brewers get Ryan Braun back from his season-ending, 65-game drug suspension. Pitcher A.J. Burnett went from the Pirates to the Phillies, while the Reds lost

leadoff hitter Choo to the Rangers.

The loaded Los Angeles Dodgers started the season in Australia beating Arizona and think it's their time to shine.

Their biggest deal of the offseason was a \$215 million, seven-year contract for their own Clayton Kershaw, who won the Cy Young Award for the second time in three seasons. Kershaw, Cuban sensation Yasiel Puig and steady Adrian Gonzalez helped the Dodgers all the way to the NLCS.

The Washington Nationals were among the favorites last year, coming off a breakthrough season. But slugger Bryce Harper was hurt and they underperformed in their final season under manager Davey Johnson, finishing 10 games back of East champion Atlanta.

Enter Matt Williams, who gets his first job as a MLB manager after three seasons as Arizona's third base coach. The rotation is one of the best in the majors, with Fister coming over from Detroit. Harper is healthy again, and pitcher Stephen Strasburg looks just fine following October elbow surgery. □

Tigers' Cabrera to earn record \$292M over 10 years

LARRY LAGE**AP Sports Writer**

DETROIT (AP)—Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera will earn a Major League Baseball-record \$292 million over the next decade under a \$248 million, eight-year deal with the Detroit Tigers through 2023.

Cabrera is due \$44 million over the final two years of his \$152.3 million, eight-year contract that runs through 2015. The new deal was announced on Friday at a news conference in Lakeland, Florida.

The contract's average of \$31 million tops the previous mark of \$30,714,286 set by Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw in his \$215 million, seven-year deal in January. The total commitment tops the record set by New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez with a \$275 million, 10-year agreement in 2007.

Cabrera will make \$45,858 per plate appearance under the new deal's \$31 million average annual value,

based on his yearly average of 676 plate appearances during six seasons with the Tigers. That's higher than the average U.S. yearly wage of \$42,498 in 2012, according to the Social Security Administration. The Tigers and owner Mike Ilitch, who desperately wants to win a World Series, close spring training showing their fans they are willing to pay what it takes to keep great players.

The franchise offered pitcher Max Scherzer \$144 million over six years recently, but the Cy Young Award winner turned it down, likely setting himself up to become a free agent after the season. Detroit dealt Prince Fielder and his \$214 million contract in November to Texas — less than two years after giving it to him — for second baseman Ian Kinsler, sending \$30 million to the Rangers as part of the swap.

Clearly, the Tigers want Cabrera to end his career in the Motor City.

Cabrera, who turns 31 next

month, has been voted MVP in each of the last two seasons.

The Venezuelan slugger won the Triple Crown in 2012 — becoming the first player to lead either league in batting average, homers and RBIs since 1967, when Boston's Carl Yastrzemski pulled off the rare feat.

Cabrera followed that startling year with another strong season despite struggling to stay healthy. He led MLB with a .348 batting average last year, and his 44 homers and 137 RBIs were both second to Baltimore's Chris Davis.

Cabrera was limited to 148 games last season — after playing 161 in each of the previous two years — because of a sore back and left hip flexor, a strained lower abdomen, shin trouble and a groin tear that led to an offseason surgery.

The eight-time All-Star has appeared to be healthy during spring training, and injuries seem to be the only thing that can stop Cabre-



Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera prepares for batting practice before a spring exhibition baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in Lakeland, Fla., Friday, March 28, 2014.

Associated Press

ra.

He has a .321 career batting average with 365 homers and 1,260 RBIs, numbers that rank him with the greatest sluggers in the his-

tory of the game. He has played six seasons in Detroit after spending his first five with the Marlins, where he won the World Series in 2003. □

What air investigators can learn from black boxes

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the world's foremost black box laboratories opened its doors to journalists Friday to provide some insight on how technicians can recover information from flight data and voice recorders, like those from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. It remains very uncertain if the recorders can be found in the depths of the vast Indian Ocean. But if the search succeeds, the information inside could help solve the mystery of why the jet flew so far off-course. U.S. National Transportation Safety Board experts say even if the recorders have been submerged in deep water for an extended period, data can usually be recovered.

Here's some key points about how the information is retrieved, and what it can tell us:

—The black box, which is actually orange to aid visibility, consists a rectangular housing for electronics and a crash-hardened memory module that holds the data that investigators are looking for. Attached to the module is a pinger that sends out a signal to help locate the black box.

—While the battery that powers the pinger will run down after about one month, there's no definitive shelf-life for the data itself. The black boxes of an Air France flight that crashed in the Atlantic Ocean in 2009 were found two years later from a depth of more than 10,000 feet, (3,000 meters) and technicians were able to recover most of the information.

—If the box has been submerged in the sea, technicians will keep it



Erin Gormley, aerospace engineer at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), demonstrates how a flight recorder is placed into a computer rack at the NTSB Vehicle Recorder Laboratory in Washington, Friday, March 28, 2014.

Associated Press

submerged in fresh water to wash away the corrosive salt. As water may seep into the recorder, it must be carefully dried for hours or even days using a vacuum oven to prevent memory chips from cracking. The electronics and memory are checked, and any necessary repairs made. Chips are scrutinized under a microscope; even if one is cracked, often the data on it will have jumped onto another chip.

—Data is downloaded onto computer. The flight data recorder carries 25 hours of information, including prior flights within that time-span, which can sometimes provide hints about the cause of

a mechanical failure on a later flight. The voice recorder has two hours of audio, of the captain, first officer and a microphone in the cockpit area.

—The data from the flight recorder, which comes as vast streams of binary code, is converted into a useable, time-linked form about hundreds of parameters, like altitude, air speed, pitch and engine thrust, to plot what happened on the airplane. An initial assessment of the data is provided to investigators within 24 hours, but analysis will continue for weeks more.

—An initial briefing on the voice recording is given to investigators

by phone. A panel of six to eight experts then makes a meticulous transcript of the recording, which can take up a week. For privacy and legal reasons, the recording never leaves the laboratory, but parts of the transcript text may be made public if the investigation is advanced enough to put it into context.

—Technicians use a sound library to help them interpret ambient sounds from the recording: perhaps a doors opening, seats moving, an explosion or gunshot. The sound of the engine or gears can also help in analysis of the mechanics of the plane. □

Facebook launches lab to bring Internet everywhere

NEW YORK (AP) -- Facebook is giving more details about its effort to connect remote parts of the world to the Internet - and it involves drones, lasers and satellites.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Thursday that Facebook is hiring "key members of the team" from Ascenta, a U.K. company whose founders created early versions of the world's longest-flying solar powered drone.

Zuckerberg also unveiled the Facebook Connectivity Lab. The operation will employ the Ascenta

hires as well as hires from NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and Ames Research Center.

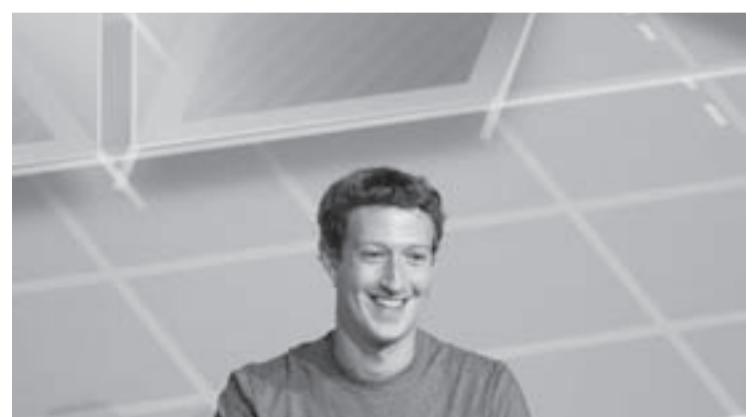
The lab's goal is to bolster Internet.org, the Facebook-led project that aims to connect the more than 70 percent of the world's 7 billion people who are not yet online.

The announcement comes days after Facebook announced a \$2 billion deal to buy virtual reality startup Oculus.

Zuckerberg has said that access connectivity is not the main obstacle to

getting the world online. He noted at the Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain last month that more than 80 percent of the world's population live in areas with 2G or 3G wireless access. More important, he said, is giving people a reason to connect: basic financial services, access to health care information and educational materials.

Facebook's acquisition of a company called Onavo last fall also fits with Internet.org's vision. Onavo de-



This Feb. 24, 2014 file photo shows Facebook Chairman and CEO Mark Zuckerberg during a conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

velops data compression technology, which helps applications run more efficiently. This is especially important in developing countries, where people have access to much slower Internet speeds. Google Inc., which is not a

part of the Internet.org effort, launched a similar undertaking earlier this year with the goal of getting everyone on Earth online. Called Project Loon, the effort launched Internet-beaming antennas aloft on giant helium balloons. □

Wall Street edges higher on consumer spending data

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A positive report on U.S. consumer spending helped push stocks mostly higher Friday for the first time in three days.

The gains were modest as investors continued to cut their holdings in biotechnology stocks, some of the best performing names of 2013. Instead, the stocks that advanced the most were mostly mature, large companies such as Microsoft, Exxon and Cisco Systems.

The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 58.83 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,323.06. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.58 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,857.62. The Nasdaq composite, which includes a number of large biotech companies, rose just 4.53 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,155.76.

The biggest gainer in the Dow was Microsoft, which rose 94 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$40.30. The company announced Thursday that it was bringing Microsoft Office to the iPad and would shift its focus away

from Windows, a move that analysts liked. Satya Nadella made the announcement in his first public appearance as the new leader of Microsoft.

"We continue to view (Of-

fice on the iPad) as a massive revenue and operating profit opportunity for Microsoft," analysts at Credit Suisse said in a report Thursday.

Microsoft helped lift other

large technology companies, with Cisco Systems, Intel and Oracle up roughly 1 percent or more.

In contrast to technology, biotechnology had another horrible day. Gilead

Sciences, Biogen Idec and Vertex Pharmaceuticals were all down 4 percent or more. The higher they rise, the harder they fall, investors say. Biotechnology stocks had been among the hottest sectors in the stock market for the last two years, with the S&P 500 Biotechnology index rising 74 percent in 2013 and 38 percent in 2012.

That momentum stopped dead in the month of March. The S&P 500 Biotechnology index is down 12 percent this month alone, erasing all of the sector's gains in January and February.

The sell-off in biotech echoes the pullback investors have seen speculative technology stocks, such as Twitter, Netflix and Tesla Motors. Those stocks are down between 14 percent and 20 percent this month alone. "The high-momentum names have lost all the traction they had in the past year," said John Fox, director of research at Fenimore Asset Management.

Investors were encouraged by news that Americans increased their spending last month, a hopeful sign for an economy that has been slowed by months of severe winter weather. The Commerce Department said consumer spending inched up 0.3 percent, a hair short of economists' forecasts. Incomes rose at the same pace.

"The economy is now reaching the point where it can shake off the weather-related excuses," Doug Cote, a market strategist for ING Investment Management, wrote in an email.

Investors will now turn their attention to next week's economic data, including the March jobs report due out Friday. Economists expect the U.S. economy, thawing from the harsh winter, created 200,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate remained steady at 6.6 percent.

In other markets, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note hovered around 2.72 percent, up from 2.69 percent Thursday. □



Everyday Health Co-Founder and CEO Benjamin Wolin, center, watches as company Co-founder Mike Keriakos, second from right, and CFO Brian Cooper, right, take their turn ringing the bell after their IPO begins trading, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, March 28, 2014. After two days of declines, stocks were moving higher in early trading Friday following news that U.S. consumer spending rose the most in three months in February.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

CBS Outdoor climbs in 1st day on NYSE



CBS President and CEO Leslie Moonves, center, is applauded by CBS Outdoor Americas Inc. CEO Jeremy Male, third from right, as Moonves rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell, marking CBS Outdoor's IPO, Friday, March 28, 2014. CBS Outdoor's stock surged in its debut on the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS Outdoor's stock is surging Friday in its debut on the New York Stock Exchange. Shares of the outdoor advertising subsidiary of CBS Corp. gained \$2.02, or 7.2 percent, to \$30.02 in morn-

ing trading after peaking at \$30.47 earlier in the day. CBS Outdoor Americas Inc.'s initial public offering includes 20 million shares priced at \$28 per share. That's at the high end of the expected range of \$26

to \$28 per share.

The New York company raised \$560 million in the IPO.

At the IPO price, CBS Outdoor's market value would be approximately \$3.36 billion. There would be 120 million shares outstanding after the offering. The New York-based company is giving the underwriters a 30-day option to buy an additional 3 million shares if demand is strong.

CBS Outdoor said in a regulatory filing that it had approximately 330,000 displays available for advertising in the U.S. and about 26,200 displays across Canada and Latin America as of 2013's end. Its customers include Apple Inc. and McDonald's Corp.

The company is trying to keep pace with the times, converting traditional billboard displays to digital ones. At the end of last

year the company had 373 digital billboards in the U.S. CBS Outdoor said in its filing that digital billboards produce about three to four times more revenue per display than traditional billboards, on average. The company is ramping up its efforts to convert more of its traditional billboards to digital billboards as conversion costs decline.

Once the offering is complete, CBS will own more than 80 percent of CBS Outdoor. CBS plans to divest its shares of CBS Outdoor through a split-off later this year. Once that happens, CBS Outdoor said it plans to convert to a real estate investment trust. CBS announced REIT conversion plans for the subsidiary in January 2013. REITs return 90 percent of their profits to shareholders and don't have to pay taxes on those profits. □

Vision for Comcast in a post-merger world

JAMES B. STEWART

© 2014 New York Times

Comcast's chief executive, Brian Roberts, was stung four years ago when Reed Hastings, chief executive of the then-fledgling Netflix, dismissed Comcast with a rhetorical question: "Why would we want to do a deal with a regional cable company?" If Roberts has his way, Comcast will soon be neither regional nor cable. With its aggressive push into broadband Internet and its bold acquisition of NBC Universal, Comcast already is no longer just a cable company. If its proposed \$45 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable is approved by regulators, it won't be regional, either. And Hastings is making deals with Comcast now. Last month, Netflix agreed to pay Comcast for faster and more reliable broadband delivery of its streaming service in a potentially groundbreaking deal between a content provider and a broadband distributor. The deceptively mild-mannered Roberts doesn't plan to stop there. Comcast is building a new tower, designed by the star architect Norman Foster, next to its Philadelphia headquarters that will house roughly 3,000 software engineers. He sees the new Comcast as a global technology company and its major competitors the media companies of the future: Google, Amazon, Facebook and even Apple, with which Comcast has been engaging in tentative negotiations. "The alternative was to sit around and let cable die a slow death," Roberts told me this week on a visit to Comcast's current offices in Philadelphia. "Cable is a relic of an antiquated model," when municipalities doled out local monopolies to cable operators. "The result is we're not in New York or Los Angeles. How great can that be?" Whether Comcast can become a force in New York now rests with regulators at the Justice Department, who are examining antitrust issues related to the Time Warner Cable deal, and at the Federal Communications Commission, which is looking at broader public policy issues. The sheer size of the deal, and the intense public interest in unfettered Internet access, have galvanized an array of opponents, from Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., to the Consumers Union to the Writers Guild of America. I suspect few of them, if any, are Time Warner Cable customers. In a 2013 J.D. Power customer satisfaction survey, Time Warner Cable ranked last in all but one region among television service providers. Time Warner Cable operates in 29 states, but thanks to the old system of regional and municipal cable monopolies, Comcast and Time Warner Cable don't compete anywhere. Justice Department merger guidelines define geographical markets, which is why regulators weighing airline mergers examine competition on individual routes, not national market share. In New York, Comcast will simply supplant Time Warner Cable in the array of consumer television and broadband options, which include Verizon's FiOS service, RCN, DirecTV and the Dish Network. "Given that these are local markets, and that Comcast and Time Warner Cable don't overlap, the merger really has no impact on competition," said Scott Hemphill, an antitrust professor and specialist in intellectual property at Columbia Law School. Under conventional antitrust standards, it's pretty much an open-and-shut case. But some opponents have seized on the rarely invoked doctrine of potential competition - the theory that, if Comcast were barred from acquiring Time Warner Cable, it would enter the New York market on its own.

Continued on Page 27

BlackBerry sees hope for the future

IAN AUSTEN

© 2014 New York Times

OTTAWA, Ontario — Although John S. Chen is relatively new to the roles of executive chairman and chief executive of BlackBerry, the Canadian smartphone maker, on Friday he presided over what has become almost a ritual for the company when he announced a fourth-quarter net loss of \$423 million, bringing the total loss for the company's fiscal year to \$5.9 billion.

Despite BlackBerry's relentlessly bad financial news, however, industry and financial analysts are no longer raising concerns that the once-dominant company is rapidly heading toward collapse.

Since moving to BlackBerry in November, Chen has revamped its executive ranks, accelerated the layoffs of employees, farmed out some phone development, cut costs and sold real estate.

But more significant is Chen's plan to turn the company's focus away from handsets and toward its traditionally smaller software and services business. This, many analysts anticipate, might finally remove the association of the word "troubled" with BlackBerry's name. That is because the plan focuses on a market that BlackBerry effectively invented, even though it includes trying to revitalize the

once-popular BlackBerry Messenger instant messaging service and still selling phones.

BlackBerry, in Chen's version of the future, will become a leading supplier of software and services to manage the proliferation of smartphones and tablets used by business and government workers

changes at the company, present a significant opportunity.

"We were once a \$20 billion company," Chen said.

"It's not out of the question that we could go back and recapture old ground. That may sound a little funny to you right now, but you never know."

One of the biggest chal-



A BlackBerry Q10 smartphone is shown in Toronto. Despite BlackBerry's relentlessly bad financial news, analysts are no longer raising concerns that the company is heading toward collapse. (AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Graeme Roy)

lenges for BlackBerry is its image - that of a slow-footed company bleeding cash. Convincing corporations that its software is a safe investment will be a tough job for Chen.

"It's perhaps the most defining challenge he faces in turning this company around," said John Jackson, a mobile data analyst at the research company IDC. "There is a need for him to strongly articulate why BlackBerry matters." □

Ford CEO's pay up 11% to \$23.2M in 2013

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford CEO Alan Mulally's compensation rose 11 percent to \$23.2 million in 2013, as the company reported record profits in North America and Asia.

Mulally earned \$2 million in salary, the same as 2012. But he earned more in bonuses, at \$5.9 million, and in stock and option awards, which totaled \$14.6 million. The company's board noted that Mulally helped keep the company's European restructuring on track. It said Ford exceeded internal profit and cash

flow targets, and noted that the Dearborn, Mich.-based company doubled its dividend in 2013. But the board said Ford missed internal targets for market share increases and quality improvement. Ford earned a record pre-tax profit of \$8.8 billion in North America and a record profit of \$415 million in Asia last year. Ford saw strong demand worldwide for small SUVs like the Escape, EcoSport and Kuga last year. In the U.S., sales of the F-Series pickup truck jumped 18 percent as the economy continued to improve. Mulally's

compensation included \$232,153 for personal use of private plane. Mulally, 68, announced in January that he would stay at Ford at least through the end of this year, putting to rest rumors that he might leave to become CEO of Microsoft. Mulally has made \$197.65 million since joining Ford in 2006, according to the AP's calculations. He led a major restructuring at the automaker, cutting costs by closing factories and globalizing its product offerings worldwide. Ford has earned \$42.4 billion since returning to profitability in 2009. □

Mutts

IT WAS REAL
NICE VISITING
YOU AT THE FARM
SANCTUARY, EDDIE!



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BRING SOME
FRIENDS.

GREAT.

MAKE
SURE ONE
IS AN
APPLE.

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6 Chix

My boyfriend
had my
portrait
tattooed
on his
back!

How
romantic!

I didn't have the heart
to tell him I'm breaking
up with him!

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Blondie

ALEXANDER, THOSE GLAZED
DONUTS ARE NOTHING BUT
SWEET EMPTY CALORIES!

I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT, DAD

I THINK
I'LL GET
AN APPLE
INSTEAD

GOOD
FOR
YOU,
SON

BY THE
WAY, I JUST
ATE THE
LAST ONE

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3/29

YOUNG MARSHAL

Mother Goose & Grimm

LOOKS LIKE LEGO
IS MAKING A MOVIE
FOR GROWN-UPS
NEXT YEAR.

REALLY.
WHAT'S IT
CALLED?

IKEA,
THE MOVIE.

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Baby Blues

AAAAAARGH!

THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE
IS AGAINST
ME!

WHAT DID THE
UNIVERSE DO NOW?

IT FORGOT TO WASH
HER BLUE SWEATER.

BABYBLUES.COM
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ACROSS

- Cracker spread
- Twirls
- Thin wood strip
- Golf club with a thin flat head
- Attack; state of horrible fear
- Hired vehicle
- "Why don't we?"
- Actor Edward
- Small brook
- Least difficult
- Liza Minnelli musical hit
- Place to work out
- Compensate
- Gem
- Car fuel
- Actor Stacy
- Household animals
- Crash into
- Water parted by Moses
- Crawling bug
- Swelled; became wider
- Daddies
- Abounded
- ABC followers
- Finest
- Narrow strip of leather
- Hightailed it
- Hive product
- Bus rider's coin
- Automobile
- Schemed
- Site of King Arthur's castle
- Easy stride
- Squash; winter veggie
- Actress Delany
- Finished; done
- Forbidden
- Large kitchen appliance
- Cravings
- Nutmeg or cinnamon
- Disguise
- Arguments
- Religious belief
- "Has Anybody Seen My ___?"
- Colorado resort
- Discontinue
- Too quick
- ___ of; free from
- NFL official

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/29/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

F	E	T	C	H	S	L	A	M	R	A	T	S
E	X	I	L	E	P	E	R	U	E	C	H	O
E	I	D	E	R	A	I	M	S	P	O	O	L
S	T	E	A	M	E	R	S	C	O	A	R	S
U	N	B	E	N	T	O	U	T	R	E	V	I
A	W	E	S	T	E	R	S	E	A	N	V	E
S	E	A	S	S	L	L	E	N	N	V	A	E
E	A	R	L	R	U	D	E	R	D	A	N	A
S	T	E	E	L	R	E	S	E	T	S	W	U
C	A	S	T	L	S	T	R	I	O	R	A	C
A	L	W	Y	S	M	I	S	C	H	E	I	F
S	E	A	R	I	S	N	A	G	K	Y	N	A
I	C	E	D	E	A	C	H	L	I	T	E	R
N	E	T	S	N	Y	E	T	E	R	O	D	E

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3/29/14

Zits

I GOTTA GO!
NO, REALLY!
MY PHONE'S
GONNA...

GAH!
NOOOOO!
PLEEP!

TRUE TEEN ANGST IS WASTING
THE LAST BIT OF PHONE JUICE
ON YOUR MOM.
TRAGIC.

DOWN
1 Heap
2 Zone

ACROSS
3 Little children
4 Junior naval officers
5 Sudden cramp
6 Over and done with
7 Hostel
8 Daughters of one's brother
9 Fragment
10 Went off course
11 Hideaway
12 Wheel rod
13 Lean
14 Storm center
23 Boston beans
25 Sacred Islamic month
26 Arguments
27 Religious belief
29 "Has Anybody Seen My ___?"
31 Colorado resort
32 Discontinue
33 Too quick
35 ___ of; free from
36 NFL official

38 Train station
39 Four and six
42 Is important
44 Result of monotony
46 Baggage porter
47 Pork product
49 Poet who wrote many odes
50 Narrow boat
51 Stratagem
52 Zero, in tennis
53 Not locked
54 Gator's cousin
55 Etna's output
56 Individuals
57 Military vehicle
60 ___-wan Kenobi

Conceptis Sudoku

4	2											
4												
5	9	8										
1	7											
3	6											
2	6											
1		2	4									
9	5											

Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	6	4	2	1	5	9	7	3				

<tbl_r cells="13" ix="3" max

Vision for Comcast in a post-merger world

Continued from Page 25

But Roberts flatly ruled out that possibility, given the prohibitive costs of replicating Time Warner Cable's infrastructure. As it is, he said Comcast is going to have to spend heavily to bring Time Warner Cable's network up to Comcast's standards.

And although it seems unlikely anytime soon, other potential competitors may still enter the New York market. Google has built high-speed fiber networks in three areas - Kansas City, both in Missouri and in Kansas; Austin, Texas; and Provo, Utah - and plans to expand into nine more. Sprint is talking about using its spectrum for a wireless broadband connection to homes. In any event, the doctrine of potential competition has rarely been invoked by courts to block mergers. (There have been only three instances, and one was overturned on appeal.) Critics of the proposed merger have also dusted off a little-used antitrust doctrine called monopsony, arguing that the size of a combined Comcast-Time Warner Cable - the company would control about 30 percent of national pay television subscribers - would enable it to squeeze lower prices from suppliers like Netflix and cable programmers like ESPN. This issue of Comcast's size and leverage with suppliers has also gotten caught

up in the debate over net neutrality, which is the doctrine that all data on the Internet should be treated the same and that broadband providers like Comcast shouldn't be allowed to charge a premium to heavy users like Netflix. Susan Crawford, a professor at Cardozo School of Law and author of "Captive Audience: The Telecom Industry and Monopoly Power in the New Gilded Age," has emerged as one of the most persuasive critics of the deal. Although Crawford, who is currently a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, concedes there's little or no overlap between Comcast and Time Warner Cable in any relevant markets, "that's missing the forest for the trees," she said. "The deal takes an already terrible situation and makes it worse. Comcast has enormous market power where it operates and has the increased ability to stifle innovation in cable boxes, in uses of the Internet and to favor some programs over others. They have a built-in conflict of interest. It's hard to imagine all that they can do." But Hemphill noted that the purpose of antitrust law was to protect consumers, not program suppliers. It's hard to imagine that the wildly popular ESPN or Netflix needs protection from regulators in Washington. When Time Warner Cable blocked CBS from its

cable network in a dispute over fees, customers were outraged, and the cable company largely capitulated to CBS's demands.

Most monopsony claims fail because consumers end up benefiting from the lower prices a monopsonist can extract from suppliers. If Comcast can negotiate a better deal with programmers, it has an incentive to pass at least some of those savings on to customers to increase demand for its services with lower prices. As Hemphill noted, "Even a monopolist will pass through savings to customers as long as there's elasticity of demand."

To gain approval for the NBC deal, Comcast agreed to a long list of conditions that bar discriminatory conduct, go a long way toward guaranteeing net neutrality and generally "enhance the public interest," in the words of the FCC. And acquiring Time Warner Cable would bring those company's 11 million subscribers under the terms of the agreement.

Regulators may well decide to impose even more conditions as a requirement for approving the Time Warner Cable deal, although Crawford is skeptical that will happen if Comcast gets the go-ahead for the deal. "They've never been constrained by any words that tell them what to do," she said. □

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TODAY
ARUBA'S ENGLISH NEWS - LEADER AND THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY

BONDIA
PODER DEN NO MAN

How to reach us!

Downtown



More than 1,000 satellites are flying overhead

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The spotting of ocean debris by satellites during the search for the lost Malaysian airliner has drawn attention to those orbiting platforms. A primer on what's in orbit, with help from Nicholas Johnson, who retired Thursday as NASA's chief scientist for orbital debris:

HOW MANY SATELLITES ARE UP THERE?

About 1,100 active satellites, both government and private. Plus there are about 2,600 ones that no longer work. Russia launched the first satellite, Sputnik 1, in 1957. The oldest one still in orbit, which is no longer functioning, was launched in 1958.

HOW BIG ARE THEY?

Size varies. Communication satellites can be as big as a small school bus and weigh up to 6 tons, the Federal Communications Commission says. Most weigh a few tons or less. Some that are used briefly are 4 inch cubes and weigh about 2 pounds (0.91 kilograms).

WHAT EXACTLY DO THEY DO?

They have a wide variety of roles: GPS satellites aid navigation, others relay telephone or television signals, others aid in weather forecasting, national defense, science, and agriculture, as in monitoring crops and areas of drought. The Union of Concerned Scien-



Captain Peter Moore is silhouetted against the southern Indian Ocean aboard a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion aircraft during a search operation of the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, over the south Indian Ocean, Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Associated Press

tists, a private organization that maintains a database of satellites, says about 60 percent are used for communications.

WHERE ARE THEY?

It depends on their use. Communications satellites relay signals from a fixed spot on the equator, about 22,000 miles (35,400 kilometers) up. GPS satellites are at 12,400 miles (20,000 kilometers), high enough to be accessible to large swaths of the Earth. Others that need a closer look at Earth are lower. For comparison, the International Space Station is only about 260 miles (418 kilometers) high, and very few satellites are lower than that. While some satellites remain over fixed spots on Earth, others fly over both poles or can move from place to place as needed.

A British communications satellite picked up signals from the plane; analysis of them led authorities to conclude that the airliner crashed in a remote area of the southern Indian Ocean.

This week, Thai authorities said one of their satellites spotted 300 objects that might be from the airliner. Some satellites were moved into place to look for debris.

WHO OWNS THEM?

Governments large and small, and private companies. More than 50 countries own a satellite or a significant share in one, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

There are 502 active satellites with a U.S. tie; 118 for Russia and 116 for China. Thailand has four satellites and shares in another, the scientist group says.

WHAT IF THEY STOP WORKING?

Old satellites can pose a risk for collisions with active ones, so there are rules and recommendations to avoid a buildup of junk in space. Satellites that fly below a certain height are supposed to be put in an orbit that will make them fall to Earth and burn up within 25 years.

At high altitudes, they are to be boosted up to still higher orbits to get them out of the way. □

2018 mission: Mars rover prototype unveiled in UK

GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

STEVENAGE, England (AP)

— It looks like a giant sandbox — except the sand has a reddish tint and the "toys" on display are very expensive prototypes designed to withstand the rig-

ors of landing on Mars.

The European Mars rover unveiled Thursday at a "Mars Yard" testing ground in Britain is designed to drill beneath the surface of the Red Planet searching for signs of life.

It's been dubbed 'Bryan'



Engineer Ben Nye stands next to a robotic vehicle on the 'Mars Yard Test Area', a testing ground for the robotic vehicles of the European Space Agency's ExoMars program scheduled for 2018, in Stevenage, England, Thursday, March 27, 2014.

Associated Press

by its creators — earlier versions were named Bridget (clad in gold material that makes it look like a garish dune buggy) and Bruno. The plan is to develop an autonomous robotic vehicle that can be launched in 2018 as part of the European Space Agency's ExoMars program, an ambitious plan that begins in 2016 with the launch of a Mars orbiter and demonstrator landing module.

The goal is to bring samples of Mars back to Earth by the 2020s.

The rovers being developed at the Airbus Defense and Space facility will be able to drill for samples and "feed" them into an onboard laboratory. The information gleaned can then be sent back to Earth. The data transmissions could even contain proof that living organisms on Mars had been found, said Abbie Hutty, an engineer charged with helping to make the rover tough enough.

The rover's drill is designed to penetrate two meters (six feet) beneath the surface, probing an area shielded from radiation and containing water deposits. □

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Action, special effects helps Hollywood in China

LOUISE WATT

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Captain America and Spider-Man are seeking to dominate the Chinese box office in the coming weeks, proving that U.S. patriotic superheroes can overcome China's leanness of foreign films if they promise big money.

Chinese authorities, wary of outside cultural influences and competition, restrict the number of foreign movies shown in the mainland's cinemas to 34 each year.

Such big Hollywood block-busters with action, adventure and special effects tend to be Hollywood's most successful imports to China. Only a handful of this year's Oscar winners have been shown so far in mainland China, including the 3-D space odyssey "Gravity," highlighting how visual spectacle translates better than dialogue-driven drama. Oscar best picture "12 Years A Slave" and the other leading Oscar-nominated movie "American Hustle," which in the end went home empty-handed, haven't been shown here.

"The American movies that have succeeded in this market in a big way typically have special effects, lend themselves to 3D and are emotionally satisfying stories," said Doug Belgrad, president of Columbia Pictures, which is behind the new Spider-Man film, in an interview in Beijing.

"I think we're all learning about the Chinese marketplace, it's growing so quickly and probably the demographic make-up of the audience is changing, but it seems like there's a young audience, romance seems to work pretty well here, adventure heroes, I think those are ingredients that work well."

Hollywood is keen to get a big slice of China's movie market, which is now the world's second biggest after the United States. Movies increasingly contain China elements to appeal to the audience, such as "Gravity's" inclusion of a

Chinese space station and the casting of actress Fan Bingbing in a Chinese version of "Iron Man 3."

At a news conference in Beijing this week to promote "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," which is scheduled for release in mainland China on May 4, two days after its U.S. release, the movie's producer was asked whether the audience could expect to see female characters from China in sequels.

"Emphatically yes, you will see that," responded Matt Tomach, explaining that "China's an enormous part of the movie-going world and our community."

Zhao Zhiyong, an official at Beijing city's bureau of press, publication, radio, film and television, said that for a foreign film to be successful in China, it should have a story line that is "touching and can arouse empathy."

"The film has to be able to produce strong emotion in Chinese viewers, and this is related to cultural understanding. This doesn't mean that the film has to feature Chinese actors or actresses, rather it should know what Chinese are interested in," said Zhao in an interview Thursday.

China's authoritarian government strictly controls print media, television, radio and the Internet. Movies have to clear censorship, and those that fail don't necessarily know why, although China censors according to political sensitivities and cuts excessively sexual and violent material.

One surprise approval last year was Quentin Tarantino's violent slave-revenge movie "Django Unchained," which debuted only to be pulled on opening day for unspecified "technical reasons." After undergoing an edit, it returned a month later.

Robert Cain, a Los Angeles-based producer and entertainment industry consultant, said Hollywood movies that make it to China are usually visual-effects driven, action or animated movies that appeal to



In this Monday, March 24, 2014 photo, actress Scarlett Johansson stands between Samuel L. Jackson, left, and Chris Evans during a publicity event ahead of the April release of their movie "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" in Beijing.

Associated Press

young adults aged about 18-25 — those films likely to make the most money.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier," involving the warrior soldier dedicat-

ed to defending U.S. ideals such as truth, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is a Marvel Studio title that is scheduled for release in China on April 4.

China has led overseas box office for every Marvel Studio title since the 2012 release "The Avengers," according to information from The Walt Disney Company, which owns Marvel Entertainment.

"Apparently the authorities there don't mind the rah-rah America kind of movies," said Cain. "I think maybe 10 years ago the attitude would have been a little bit different, but now I think they feel the audience has matured and is sophisticated enough to know these are really just fantasy stories."

"Anything that remotely has a sniff of being anti-China is a completely different story but that's not the case with these superhero movies, I think they just see them as being big moneymaking fantasy vehicles," he said. □

Seth Rogen says West-Kardashian spoofs are in fun

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Attention Hollywood casting agents: Seth Rogen is looking for someone to play the part of baby North in the next Kim Kardashian-Kanye West spoof with pal James Franco.

The 31-year-old actor made the press rounds Thursday at CinemaCon in Las Vegas to promote his upcoming movie, "The Interview" (co-starring Franco).

"Michael Cera would be good," joked Rogen. "Get Annie Leibovitz to take the pictures."

Rogen says he's "a huge fan of Kanye West" and that's at the heart of his mimicry.

"I'm like just really into his music,

and when we made the original (spoof of West's "Bound 2" music video



Seth Rogen, a cast member in "Neighbors," introduces a screening of the film on the second day of CinemaCon 2014, on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

featuring Kardashian), we were filming 'The Interview' in Vancouver and we kept trying to go to Kanye West shows that kept getting canceled or the dates kept changing and it hap-

pened like two or three times.

We were just talking about him all the time and then the video came out so we were just like, 'Let's just try to do that.' □



In this Feb. 11, 2014 file photo, actress Eva Marie Saint attends the world premiere of "Winter's Tale" in New York. The Oscar-winning actress of "On the Waterfront" and "North by Northwest" fame talks about her career in the TCM special airing Monday, March 31, 2014.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eva Marie Saint has a perfect right to act like Hollywood royalty.

She won an Oscar for her film debut in "On the Waterfront," holding her ground against Marlon Brando in his prime. She was Cary Grant's dangerously

Eva Marie Saint dishes on Hollywood in TCM special

sexy squeeze in "North by Northwest," conquered Paul Newman in "Exodus" and counts greats Alfred Hitchcock and Elia Kazan among her directors. But Saint is winningly candid in a Turner Classic Movies special and an interview, a contrast to her luminous screen presence and stellar career. She remains a working actress as she nears her 90th birthday this summer, on July 4. The industry has changed during her more than six decades in it, but Saint said she takes it in stride.

"You know how to stay young? Go with the flow," she said. She also keeps in mind advice that she heard from film great and mentor Lillian Gish, whom Saint worked with in "The Trip to Bountiful" on TV and onstage in the early 1950s. "It's today and tomorrow, and don't get cranky," Gish would advise actresses worried about their future, Saint recalled.

"Eva Marie Saint: Live From the TCM Classic Film Festival," a conversation between Saint and TCM host Robert Osborne, airs 8 p.m. EDT Monday as part of a TCM tribute that includes showings of "On the Waterfront" (1954), "North by Northwest" (1959) and "Raintree County" (1957). Saint, who spoke to Osborne at the 2013 TCM festival in Los Angeles (to be held April 10-14 this year), is charmingly direct about her film and TV career, her colleagues and how she combined family life with her demanding profession. Director Jeffrey Hayden, her husband of more than 60 years, offered support from the audience.

"There are no small roles," he called out when Saint mentioned a lesser part she had played.

For Saint, there were certainly no minor leading men. She appeared with "the most enviable list of co-stars of any actress of

her time," Osborne said, including Gregory Peck, James Garner and Warren Beatty (in Saint's personal favorite, "All Fall Down," 1962). "She's also a wonderful storyteller and has great tales to tell."

Saint proves that in the TCM special. At one point, she delightedly recounts how "Exodus" director Otto Preminger took over from Newman in one scene to demonstrate how better to give her a smooch.

"I mean, he's telling Paul Newman how to kiss?" she said, laughing.

Brando, she recalls, was both "really adorable" and a little frightening during filming of "On the Waterfront."

"I felt that he could see right through me," Saint said of "The Godfather" star that she considers one of the finest actors ever.

"I don't know what happened to Marlon," she added, referring to his late career decline. □

Maria Bartiromo launches Fox Sunday show

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Political junkies have plenty of choices on Sunday-morning television. That's not the case for those who follow business, a niche that Maria Bartiromo hopes to fill starting this weekend on Fox News Channel.

The former CNBC personality debuts her one-hour program, "Sunday Morning Futures," at 10 a.m. EDT. It will feature interviews with business leaders and round-table discussions, with an emphasis on anticipating the financial stories of the upcoming week.

"You turn on the television Sunday morning and you see all of these politicos talking their talking points, but very rarely do you ever see anybody connecting the dots — it's about the economy, it's about job creation, it's about business," she said. "What I hope to do is get business people into the conversa-



This Feb. 24, 2014 file photo shows Maria Bartiromo during the debut of her "Opening Bell with Maria Bartiromo" program on the Fox Business Network, in New York.

Associated Press

tion on Sunday morning." Original business programming is scarce on Sundays, even on networks that cater to that audience. CNBC and Fox Business Network both air infomercials for most of the daytime hours. The Sunday Fox News slot

was an important enticement for Bartiromo to make the jump to Fox, where she also hosts a two-hour weekday morning show on the business network. For two decades, Bartiromo was one of the main attractions at CNBC,

the "Money Honey" whose breathless reporting from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange defined a go-go era. On its face, the move to Fox Business lowers her visibility since FBN has struggled to establish itself as a competitor. Bartiromo's "Opening Bell" has averaged 54,000 viewers a day since she joined last month, compared with the 191,000 viewers that CNBC gets in the same time slot, the Nielsen company said.

A Sunday show on the Fox News Channel, meanwhile, offers a chance to reach a much larger audience. Fox is averaging 1.1 million viewers each week for the news and medical shows that "Sunday Morning Futures" will be displacing, more than the combined viewership for a CNN show with Fareed Zakaria and an MSNBC program with Melissa Harris-Perry in the same time slot.

Bartiromo said she had considered another deal

at CNBC when her contract came due but decided to look around, too. She concluded her job at CNBC wouldn't change much, and she was looking to do some things differently. She was ready for a move. "They have gotten so chatty, with so much personality, that they left some of the content on the cutting room floor — business information," she said. Bartiromo said she believes CNBC's fast pace is no longer in tune with the times.

"I just felt this pressure to do five-minute interviews and this pressure to have five people on at once and I just got tired of it," she said.

"I felt like I needed something with a little more substance and perspective and felt it was going to be hard to do that where I was because the structure is the structure and the machine keeps on going."

CNBC spokesman Brian Steel declined to comment. □

A Nation of Takers?



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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In the debate about poverty, critics argue that government assistance saps initiative and is unaffordable. After exploring the issue, I must concede that the critics have a point. Here are five public welfare programs that are wasteful and turning us into a nation of "takers."

First, welfare subsidies for private planes. The United States offers three kinds of subsidies to tycoons with private jets: accelerated tax write-offs, avoidance of personal taxes on the benefit by claiming that private aircraft are for security, and use of air traffic control paid for by chumps flying commercial.

As the leftists in the George W. Bush administration put it when they tried unsuccessfully to end this last boondoggle: "The family of four taking a budget vacation is subsidizing the CEOs flying on a corporate jet."

I worry about those tycoons sponging off government. Won't our pampering damage their character? Won't they become addicted to the entitlement culture, demanding subsidies even for their yachts? Oh, wait ...

Second, welfare subsidies for yachts. The mortgage-interest deduction was meant to encourage a home-owning middle class. But it has been extended to provide subsidies for beach homes and even yachts.

In the meantime, money was slashed last year from the public housing program for America's neediest. Hmm. How about if we house the homeless in these publicly supported yachts?

Third, welfare subsidies for hedge funds and private equity. The single most outrageous tax loophole in the United States is for "carried interest," allowing people with the highest earnings to pay paltry taxes. They can magically reclassify their earned income as capital gains, because that carries a lower tax rate (a maximum of 23.8 percent this year, compared with a maximum of 39.6 percent for earned income).

Let's just tax capital gains at earned income rates, as we did under President Ronald Reagan, that notorious scourge of capitalism.

Fourth, welfare subsidies for America's biggest banks. The too-big-to-fail banks in the United States borrow money unusually cheaply because of an implicit government promise to rescue

them. Bloomberg View calculated last year that this amounts to a taxpayer subsidy of \$83 billion to our 10 biggest banks annually. President Barack Obama has proposed a bank tax to curb this subsidy, and this year a top Republican lawmaker, Dave Camp, endorsed the idea as well. Big banks are lobbying like crazy to keep their subsidy.

Fifth, large welfare subsidies for American corporations from cities, counties and states. A bit more than a year ago, Louise Story of The New York Times tallied more than \$80 billion a year in subsidies to companies, mostly as incentives to operate locally. (Conflict alert: The New York Times Co. is among those that have received millions of dollars from city and state authorities.) You see where I'm going. We talk about the unsustainability of government benefit programs and the deleterious effects these can have on human behavior, and these are real issues. Well-meaning programs for supporting single moms can create perverse incentives not to marry, or aid meant for a needy child may be misused to buy drugs. Let's acknowledge that helping people is a complex, uncertain and imperfect struggle.

But, perhaps because we now have the wealthiest Congress in history, the first in which a majority of members are millionaires, we have a one-sided discussion demanding cuts only in public assistance to the poor, while ignoring public assistance to the rich. And a one-sided discussion leads to a one-sided and myopic policy.

We're cutting one kind of subsidized food - food stamps - at a time when Gallup finds that almost one-fifth of American families struggled in 2013 to afford food. Meanwhile, we ignore more than \$12 billion annually in tax subsidies for corporate meals and entertainment.

Sure, food stamps are occasionally misused, but anyone familiar with business knows that the abuse of food subsidies is far greater in the corporate suite. Every time an executive wines and dines a hot date on the corporate dime, the average taxpayer helps foot the bill.

So let's get real. To stem abuses, the first target shouldn't be those avaricious infants in nutrition programs but tycoons in their subsidized Gulfstreams.

However imperfectly, subsidies for the poor do actually reduce hunger, ease suffering and create opportunity, while subsidies for the rich result in more private jets and yachts. Would we rather subsidize opportunity or yachts? Which kind of subsidies deserve more scrutiny?

Some conservatives get this, including Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. He has urged "scaling back ludicrous handouts to millionaires that expose an entitlement system and tax code that desperately need to be reformed."

After all, quite apart from the waste, we don't want to coddle billionaires and thereby sap their initiative! □



America's Taxation Tradition



PAUL KRUGMAN
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As inequality has become an increasingly prominent issue in American discourse, there has been furious pushback from the right. Some conservatives argue that focusing on inequality is unwise, that taxing high incomes will cripple economic growth. Some argue that it's unfair, that people should be allowed to keep what they earn. And some argue that it's un-American - that we've always celebrated those who achieve wealth, and that it violates our national tradition to suggest that some people control too large a share of the wealth.

And they're right. No true American would say this: "The absence of effective state, and, especially, national, restraint upon unfair money-getting has tended to create a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief object is to hold and increase their power," and follow that statement with a call for "a graduated inheritance tax on big fortunes ... increasing rapidly in amount with the size of the estate."

Who was this left-winger? Theodore Roosevelt, in his famous 1910 New Nationalism speech. The truth is that, in the early 20th century, many leading Americans warned about the dangers of extreme wealth concentration and urged that tax policy be

used to limit the growth of great fortunes. Here's another example: In 1919, the great economist Irving Fisher - whose theory of "debt deflation," by the way, is essential in understanding our current economic troubles - devoted his presidential address to the American Economic Association largely to warning against the effects of "an undemocratic distribution of wealth." And he spoke favorably of proposals to limit inherited wealth through heavy taxation of estates.

Nor was the notion of limiting the concentration of wealth, especially inherited wealth, just talk. In his landmark book, "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," the economist Thomas Piketty points out that America, which introduced an income tax in 1913 and an inheritance tax in 1916, led the way in the rise of progressive taxation, that it was "far out in front" of Europe. Piketty goes so far as to say that "confiscatory taxation of excessive incomes" - that is, taxation whose goal was to reduce income and wealth disparities, rather than to raise money - was an "American invention."

And this invention had deep historical roots in the Jeffersonian vision of an egalitarian society of small farmers. Back when Teddy Roosevelt gave his speech, many thoughtful Americans realized not just that extreme inequality was making nonsense of that vision, but that America was in danger of turning into a society dominated by hereditary wealth - that the New World was at risk of turning into Old Europe. And they were forthright in arguing that public policy should seek to limit inequality for political as well as economic reasons, that great wealth posed a danger to democracy.

So how did such views not only get pushed out of the mainstream but come to be considered illegitimate?

Consider how inequality and taxes on top incomes were treated in the 2012 election. Republicans pushed the line that President Barack Obama was hostile to the rich. "If one's priority is to punish highly successful people, then vote for the Democrats," Mitt Romney said. Democrats vehemently (and truthfully) denied the charge. Yet Romney was in effect accusing Obama of thinking like Teddy Roosevelt. How did that become an unforgivable political sin?

You sometimes hear the argument that concentrated wealth is no longer an important issue, because the big winners in today's economy are self-made men who owe their position at the top of the ladder to earned income, not inheritance. But that view is a generation out of date. New work by the economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman finds that the share of wealth held at the very top - the richest 0.1 percent of the population - has doubled since the 1980s and is now as high as it was when Teddy Roosevelt and Irving Fisher issued their warnings.

We don't know how much of that wealth is inherited. But it's interesting to look at the Forbes list of the wealthiest Americans. By my rough count, about a third of the top 50 inherited large fortunes. Another third are 65 or older, so they will probably be leaving large fortunes to their heirs. We aren't yet a society with a hereditary aristocracy of wealth, but, if nothing changes, we'll become that kind of society over the next couple of decades.

In short, the demonization of anyone who talks about the dangers of concentrated wealth is based on a misreading of both the past and the present. Such talk isn't un-American; it's very much in the American tradition. And it's not at all irrelevant to the modern world. So who will be this generation's Teddy Roosevelt? □

Hot Streak Continues to Roll for Macau

BETTINA WASSENER

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MACAU - This city on the southeast coast of China already has its own version of Venice, complete with a Grand Canal and a Rialto Bridge. Soon, it will get a taste of France, with an Eiffel Tower and a giant resort modeled on the Palace of Versailles, as part of a building boom that has brought dozens of cranes to a stretch of reclaimed land here. Macau has grown explosively over the last decade, and another burst of expansion is in full swing as some of the world's biggest casino operators step up their bet on China's love for gambling. Last month, executives of the Macau casino company Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, or SJM, in gold-colored helmets and wielding spades of the same color, broke ground on construction of the Versailles-like Lisboa Palace. The \$3.9 billion complex is expected to open in 2017. It will be equipped with 700 gambling tables and feature three hotels - including a Palazzo Versace hotel and a hotel designed by Karl Lagerfeld, the chief designer for the Chanel and Fendi fashion houses.

A former Portuguese colony that was handed back to Chinese control in 1999, Macau now dwarfs Las Vegas as a gambling hub. And it epitomizes the rising spending power of Chinese and their economy's evolution away from heavy-duty manufacturing toward more consumption-oriented growth.

A four-decade monopoly held by a local gambling magnate, Stanley Ho, ended in 2002, opening the floodgates to a building frenzy that resulted in a tripling of casinos, to 35, in a decade. Many are situated on the Cotai Strip, land that was once a stretch of water between the islands of Coloane and Taipa. Gambling revenues have soared to nearly 361 billion Macau patacas, or about \$46 billion, last year, from 22.2 billion patacas in

2002. By comparison, the Las Vegas Strip generated about \$6.5 billion last year, and has experienced little growth over that same period of time. "It's astounding what's happened in the past 10 years," said Edward M. Tracy, chief executive of Sands China, the Hong Kong-listed sub-

the company's founder and chief executive, aims to make this "the photo op and the conversation piece of Asia." "I can't think of anything more exciting," than to be active in Macau, Wynn said in a recent phone interview from Las Vegas. "There is nothing like it."

and sightsee. They form the vast majority of visitors to Macau, and executives and analysts are confident that rising affluence and improved transportation connections - including a bridge linking Macau and Hong Kong in 2016 - will drive growth for some time.

Macau's bustling malls and gambling halls. Hotels, many of which charge several hundred dollars a night, have occupancy rates of more than 90 percent. And statistics released March 3 showed that gambling revenue in February had jumped 40 percent from a year ear-



Galaxy Macau at night in Macau, March 27, 2014. Macau has grown explosively over the last decade, and another burst of expansion is in full swing as some of the world's biggest casino operators step up their bet on China's love for gambling.

(Thomas Lee/The New York Times)

sidiary of the Las Vegas Sands Corp. "We sit next to the biggest market in the world," he said. "It's 1 billion more people than the U.S."

Las Vegas Sands, the company behind the giant Venetian hotel and casino resort and other sites in Macau, is adding a complex called the Parisian scheduled to open next year. A smaller version of the Eiffel Tower will feature an observation deck and a 200-seat restaurant.

The Galaxy, a big resort that is part of Galaxy Entertainment Group, a Hong Kong company, opened less than three years ago. Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott hotels are being added to the site.

Wynn Resorts, another U.S. casino operator, is planning a 1,700-room casino-and-hotel complex that is expected to open in 2016. Stephen A. Wynn,

Driving all this activity are people like Liu, a chain-smoking 57-year-old paint factory owner from Foshan, about 75 miles north of Macau, who was placing bets of as much as 20,000 Hong Kong dollars, or about \$2,600, at the baccarat tables in a VIP room at the Venetian this month. (Bets in Macau are typically made in Hong Kong dollars rather than Macau patacas.)

"I lost 100,000 yesterday," said Liu, who declined to give his first name for privacy reasons. "I didn't even go back to my hotel room last night, and now I'm winning it all back. I have more cash in my hotel safe. I just had a grandson, and we're here to celebrate. Money is not a problem."

Nearly 20 million people, or 1 in 5 Chinese who ventured outside mainland China last year, came to Macau to gamble, shop

Analysts at Nomura, for example, forecast in a recent report that gambling revenue could nearly double to \$80 billion by 2018. This helps explain why operators like Wynn, Sands and SJM are prepared to plow billions of dollars into more expansion despite the fact that taxes on gambling revenue in Macau are far above those in Nevada.

The forest of cranes on the Cotai Strip is also testimony to the casino operators' faith that Beijing, despite a recent clampdown on corruption and ostentatious spending, is content to let gambling thrive in Macau, which is a special administrative region of China with its own regulations and where casino-like gambling is allowed, unlike on the mainland.

Indeed, so far, neither the crackdown nor a cooling of China's once-sizzling economy has dampened

lier, to a record \$4.8 billion. To cope with this growth, Hengqin Island, next to Macau, has been designated as a site for residential housing and hotels. No gambling will be allowed on Hengqin, which is under the mainland's jurisdiction. For now, analysts and executives say, labor poses one of the biggest constraints. Wages have risen rapidly, and tens of thousands of additional employees will be needed to staff the resorts under construction, putting pressure on the authorities to allow in more immigrants.

"Macau is the China consumption story in one place," said Aaron Park, an American former banker who works for Paradise Entertainment, which operates a casino in Macau. "In a few years, Macau will become an epicenter for the world's biggest brands." □